Channel: VangelinaSkov

URL: https://youtu.be/XVPlOhFBsto

Title: The Audra Winter Drama is INSANE

Upload: 14 Sept 2025

Transcript

0:00
I think it's important to see both the good and the bad um
0:06
of talent. My name is Audrey Winter. I am the creator of The World of Guardian. I'm the author of a book called The Age of
0:12
Scorpius. I just saw close to 6,000 books come in on a semi truck. Um and
0:17
they are on their way to my apartment right now because I sold all of them. I'm
0:23
literally living through my worst nightmare and my biggest heartbreak. I am going to be redoing this book. Audrey
0:29
Winter is now seeking $70,000 in investment from angel investors. It takes one negative video to spin it
0:36
out of control. Do you have any idea how fixated I have been on the Audra Winter drama? It has
0:43
overtaken my whole life and I will talk about it to anybody who will listen
0:49
willingly or not. So, I thought I would stop torturing the people in my real life and talk to you guys about it
0:56
instead. So today we're talking about Audra Winter, who has been in a lot of
1:01
drama recently because of the release of her what she's calling her debut novel, The Age of Scorpius, which is the
1:08
introduction into The World of Guardian. She was completely primed for success.
1:15
She had thousands of pre-orders, which is unheard of for an indie author and
1:21
especially for a debut indie author. thousands of pre-orders on a book nobody

1:27
had read anything from. But when the book released, it was really bad.
1:33
There's no other way to say it besides that. The book was really, really bad. And people wanted a refund. People were
1:40
calling her a scammer. People were saying that this was just a whole big ruse to get money. There's been a lot of
1:47
theories going around. She's had to make a lot of statements, make a lot of changes, and now she has come up with a
1:54
new plan to make the book better. It's a bigger mess than you think it is. If you
2:01
haven't heard about the situation, and if you haven't been keeping up with it, trust me when I say that little introduction I've given you there, it it
2:08
doesn't even like scratch the surface of how wild this whole thing is. So, we're going to get into it. We're going to
2:14
talk about her. We're going to see what Audra has to say. Now, as for me personally, you guys might know um if
2:20
you know me, one of the reasons why this has fascinated me so much, terrified me
2:27
so much, um just been something I can't look away from is because my debut
2:34
independent novel comes out this year as well. Uh it's coming out in November.
2:40
And when this situation first started with Audra, I will admit it scared me. I
2:46
think it scared a lot of indie authors because what it looked like without digging into it, right, was that there
2:52
was a girl, 22 years old. She had been working on this book for years. Her
2:58
dream came true. The book came out. She had thousands of pre-orders, made tons of money from it, got loads of people
3:04
who were really excited for the book, went Tik Tok viral, which is something that all authors aspire to, whether they
3:09
admit it or not. You want to go viral on Tik Tok. And then the backlash was
3:16

swift. It had the worst reviews imaginable. And uh it just seemed like a nightmare. And the reason why this was
3:22
so scary was because to me it seemed like Audrey really really really thought
3:27
that her book was good, but it wasn't. Like I'm not I'm not
3:33
trying to be mean. I just I'm not beating around the bush. Like that's not to say that she couldn't write a good book. Just this was not well written.
3:39
Um, so for me and many other indie authors, it seemed like, oh my god, like
3:44
what if we think our books are are great and then they're actually like awful and
3:50
this happens to us. But there's a couple of differences. You'll see the differences when we get
3:56
into it as we get into it. But for a start, uh, let's have a look at Audrey's
4:03
Tik Tok account, which is where all this happened. So, you can see she's now under the name The World of Guardian
4:08
LLC. We'll get into that as well. Um, 22-year-old author and entrepreneur, The
4:14
World of Guardian LLC, and the AI human team. And she has a lot of Tik Toks. If
4:19
you scroll back really far, my name is Audrey Winter. I am the creator of the world of Guardian, which
4:25
by the world that I have been working on for over a decade now, and the author of a book called The Age of Scorpius, which
4:31
is the first book set in that world. I am going to be talking today about magic
4:37
in the world of Guardian because this is a high fantasy world and in fact it's
4:42
actually a futuristic Earth and I'll go into that in a second here.
4:47
That was that was a good accidental click. It could have been something else but that gave you an introduction uh of
4:53
a little bit about the book. So you can see like she gets good views on Tik Tok right at the beginning of her journey
4:59
pretty quickly. She was getting like a couple million views. At some point her
5:05

content kind of wasn't doing as well as you can see and uh she switched somewhat
5:10
to pity marketing. Like she had this day one of attempting to get a viral video before the Tik Tok ban so I can publish
5:17
my Tik Tok famous novel. Day two something else. Uh what is it? Day
5:22
three. like it goes on like that. Before I move on though, I want to share something with you guys because when I'm not spending my time reading or writing
5:30
or obsessively watching videos about the Audra Winter drama, there is one thing
5:36
you will find me doing and that is something that has become an even bigger obsession than this situation. That is a
5:43
game called Midas Merge. And I want to say a thank you to them for sponsoring today's video. In this game, you merge
5:49
creatures and treasure to heal an overgrown garden that has been cursed by the goddess of the night. And throughout
5:55
the game, you work with King Midas to restore the gardens of gold. It's a fun story. I love it. But even without the
6:02
story itself being really cool and interesting, the creatures that you are merging in this game are the cutest
6:09
things that I have ever seen in my life. I love them so much. They are adorable.
6:16
So, when you merge different creatures together, you can create new creatures, and they're all unique and one of a
6:21
kind. And I haven't even seen them all yet, but I am so excited to see more of them. The very best part of all of this,
6:28
though, is that Midas Merge is free to play, free to download, has no ads, no
6:34
interruptions, and you can even play it offline. It's just uninterrupted merging
6:40
fun with really, really cute little animals in this garden. And right now, my loves, Midas Merge has something
6:46
really cool to offer you guys. And I think you'll be excited about this cuz I am. If you are one of the first 100
6:53

people to download the game through the link in my description or by scanning the QR code on screen, you will get an
7:00
exclusive in-game creature. That creature is a Mox that will be
7:05
personalized with my name on it. Isn't that so cool? So, the first 100 people to download with my link or with my QR
7:12
code, you will get a Mox with my name, and I think that is so cool. So, click the link, scan the code, and if you do
7:19
download the game, then tag me in whatever you hatch cuz I would love to see it. This game is so fun. I genuinely
7:25
love it. Like, it is such a good time, and it's cute and it's relaxing. So,
7:30
definitely check it out. Thank you so much to Midas Merge for sponsoring today's video. Now, let's get on with
7:36
the rest of it. So there's a whole story of how Audra started out. She claims
7:42
that she has 10 years of writing experience. Now this is something that is very much in debate because when she
7:49
says she has 10 years of writing experience, she doesn't mean she has 10 years professional experience or she's
7:54
been writing books for 10 years. What she means is that she started writing when she was 12. And she has been
8:01
working on this one specific world for 10 years in her brain, rewriting stuff
8:08
in this world, not you know practicing specific methods of writing, learning
8:13
about the craft of writing, not writing anything different or challenging yourself to write anything different.
8:19
not doing anything professional work, not trying to submit anything to journals, anything like that, which I'm not saying you have to do any of that
8:25
stuff. I don't have anything that's been published in journals. I have submitted, not very much, though. My name is Arthur
8:31
Winter. I'm a 22-year-old author who has been working on my series and my world for 10 years. And we're going to talk

8:36
about this today. We're also going to talk about Malcolm Gladwell's theory of 10,000 hours to mastery. If you are not
8:43
familiar what that is, that is a theory obviously by Malcolm Gladwell in his book Outliers. super super good book. I
8:49
highly recommend it. Um I read it in high school and I'm willing to bet some people watching this video might have also read it in high school. He states
8:56
that writing is a developed skill. It is not a naturalb born talent and in order
9:01
to achieve mastery. He says that one must spend 10,000 hours. I have achieved
9:08
mastery according to Malcolm Gladwell's theory. For reference, I am an autistic individual and my special interest is
9:15
this world. I don't write to publish. I write to develop this world that I have been working in for 10 years since I was
9:22
12 years old with the same characters with story lines that have branched off from one another. And every single night
9:30
since I was 12 years old, I have written for at least 3 hours. That is not an
9:36
exaggeration. That is not making stuff up. Um that is genuinely how I go to sleep at night. Usually I spend more
9:42
than three hours writing there. Sometimes I write in the middle of the day. Sometimes I jot down notes. I always carry notebooks with me. Anywhere
9:49
I go. Um, I'm always thinking about my characters and my world. I'm plotting in my head while I'm driving. Anytime I
9:55
have a free moment to think, it is thinking about this world. This is my special interest. Of course, there are
10:01
days in there where I did not do 3 hours for various reasons, but most of the time I did more than that. So, we're
10:09
just going to assume three hours. And um like I said, this is something that
10:15
matters so deeply to me that I I genuinely want to spend this much time on it. We're going to do some
10:21

calculations here. Now, I'm a writer, so I have a notebook where I got some help from Google. And we're going to we're
10:27
going to see with calculations if I have achieved mastery by Malcolm Gladwell's
10:33
definition. Now, you are allowed to disagree with me. But before you disagree with me, I want you to ask
10:38
yourself if you would tell a 20-year-old writer with the same beginner experience
10:44
writing for 10 years as a 12-year-old writing their 22 years if they are not
10:50
considered a skilled writer or a master writer. I am explaining this because I
10:56
feel like this is really important to explain and put into perspective for people because I do say that I have 10
11:01
years of experience and not everybody totally understands why I am that serious about it. If you don't think I
11:08
have the 10,000 years of hours in writing, I do definitely at least have
11:13
10,000 hours in world building. And I have way over 10,000 hours in world building because like I said, I this is
11:19
something I'm thinking about every single moment of my life. And there has never been a point in time since I was
11:24
12 where I was not writing a book in this series. I have written
11:32
nine books in this series. We're counting revisions because when I revised, I restart the entire thing.
11:38
We're going to take 10,000 hours in 10 years. I've been writing for 10 years.
11:43
10 years is 3,650 days. We're going to take that 10,000
11:49
and we're going to divide it by how many days that is. According to that calculation, to achieve 10,000 hours of
11:56
mastery, according to Malcolm Gladwell's theory, I would have had to write 2
12:01
hours and 44 minutes every day. I have surpassed 10,000 hours.
12:09

So before you guys assume these things and assume that just because young writers are young, they are still
12:16
developing the skills in the same way. If anything, children pick up skills very very quickly. To speak for myself
12:23
here, I self-published my first book at 14. I started quering agents at 15. I
12:29
had six books written by 16 and I had a literary agent at 18. for the sake of this um I I'm explaining why I am saying
12:38
this is experience that I have and I hope you guys can understand that if you want to know more you are welcome to ask
12:44
questions like I said this is something that I am intensely passionate about this is something that I do truly
12:50
believe that I have expertise in after working this long I attended writer
12:56
conferences and I was always the youngest writer um I had professional critiques from editors I had critiques
13:02
from workshops. I was in writer communities that young. I did put professional development and research
13:08
into this. When people say 10 years of experience, they generally mean 10 years professional experience. That's like me
13:14
saying cuz I've been writing stories since I was like five at at the oldest.
13:19
I might have been a little bit younger. I people are going to call [__] on that. I I learned to write and read
13:26
really young. So it it just is a thing. Don't worry guys, I stagnated later on.
13:33
It's okay. Um, but yeah, I learned to read and write really young. And so I've definitely been writing stories since I was about five. So I'm 28 now. I can do
13:40
one month. That's like really easy maths. Oh my god. That's like me saying I have 23 years of writing experience,
13:47
which is a little bit misleading cuz if I said that and you didn't see me, you'd
13:53
be like, "So she's like 40. She's been working in the industry for however
13:58

long." That math might have been off, but who cares? So, that's a little bit misleading. Now, at some point, she had
14:04
gotten herself an agent, right? If you're not involved with the publishing
14:10
world, and a lot of my audience aren't, I'll explain this to you. An agent is
14:15
just somebody that's in some ways like there's a lot more that goes into it, but all you need to know is they're the
14:20
middleman between you and the publisher. So, you get an agent first, then you get
14:26
the publisher. usually. Not going to go into all the technicalities of it, right? That's how it works. So, she got
14:31
an agent. This is a big deal. It's not easy to get an agent. Your book has to be good. Your writing has to be good.
14:37
Usually, then she was with that agent for about 3 years. And at some point,
14:42
she was dropped by the agent. However,
14:47
this is where we get into Audra's confusing of the timeline. And I say it
14:55
in that way even though it makes no grammatical sense. But to say that she
15:01
kind of twists things a little bit and she makes things very vague because when she was pity posting she said that she
15:08
was dropped and she was crying. She posted a video of her crying about this. I probably shouldn't be recording this
15:13
but I just I need to put it into perspective for some people. I think it's important to see both the good and
15:22
the bad. um of talent. Um
15:28
I'm an author, right? And it is the hardest part of my life, but it is the
15:34
most important part of my life at the same time. I spent three years with a
15:40
literary agency that had my book in revision and then at
15:46
the three-year mark when I finally had it done, they dropped me and got me to
15:52

this point, which I'm glad I didn't stick with traditional publishing, but if I hadn't
16:03
I don't I don't think people realize how how difficult it is. I can get comments
16:10
on every single one of my videos saying, "When is this book going to be published?" And I have been for 3 years
16:15
now. And um
16:21
you know, I wish I you know, in the when I can finally give an answer,
16:27
I can't I can't get to my followers.
16:32
I my Kickstarter has 26 days left. I cannot publish my book without it
16:39
because I am a college student and a tour guide who cannot afford to properly
16:44
self-publish a book in the way that I want to and the way that I feel like my world deserves.
16:51
And I feel like it would be doing an injustice if I if I didn't.
16:57
And um if I don't make it, I'm back to square one.
17:03
This is some of the worst pain that I have been in my life.
17:09
I've went through a lot of tough things, but to be taken down by this by things that are
17:17
out of my control and to be told years and years by
17:22
writers communities specifically when you have a failure,
17:28
you're encouraged in the industry to just start something else. And I've never been able to do that. And that's
17:34
just because it means genuinely so much to me. Like this is a world in a series
17:40
that I know more than anything. However, when she
17:47
then became more successful uh with promoting her book on TikTok and started getting loads of pre-orders, she started
17:53
calling herself an entrepreneur. And in tandem with that, she started saying that she and the agent split ways or
18:01
sometimes that she chose not to work with the agent anymore and chose to go

18:07
the indie route. You see how it gets a little bit complicated and confusing. Now, what I
18:15
assume, and by the way, everything I say in this is my opinion. Don't sue me, Audra. What I assume is that what
18:20
happened is that the agent did drop her. Uh but then she decided not to pursue
18:26
another agent. Either that or the agent said, "Hey, you're going to have to make heavy changes to your book for this to
18:34
go anywhere." Audrey did not want to make heavy changes. And then obviously
18:39
she was dropped for not making the changes, but she chose not to make it. So was it a choice? You know, it's that kind of thing. So it was one of those
18:46
two options in my mind, but she's still saying it in whatever way suits her
18:51
narrative at the time. like if she wants to be seen as somebody, you know, an
18:56
underdog who really needs help, she'll say she was dropped. But if she wants to say she's a successful entrepreneur and
19:02
businesswoman, then she chose to do this. And right off the bat, it may sound like I'm being really harsh
19:08
towards Audra. But you have to understand, by the time you get to the end of this story, you you will fully
19:15
understand why I've kind of run out of sympathy. cuz I feel like for me
19:20
personally, Audra has been a really good lesson. And from her, I've learned that
19:25
pity marketing works on me. I thought I was better than that. I'm not, but I've learned that it works on me cuz anytime
19:32
she gets sad, I just feel horrifically bad for her. But then she does all these things and twists things a lot and
19:40
really paints herself in a very strange light as you will see going forward that
19:46
it just is hard to feel bad for her. But let's get on to the actual book. Right. So the age of Scorpius, the first book
19:53
in this series that she was doing, it got the numbers vary. It could be 6,000,

19:59
it could be 6 and a half thousand. It could be 7,800 pre-orders through Tik Tok shop. Those
20:07
are insane numbers. I'll be honest with you guys, right? So, currently my book
20:12
comes out in November. It's now September. I have 700 pre-orders on the
20:18
paperback of my book. And those are insane numbers. Having 700 pre-orders is
20:25
insane. And by the way, thank you so much. Very grateful for that. very aware of how lucky I am to be in that
20:31
position. So, when I'm saying that 700 is is huge, think of the fact that she
20:37
might have had upwards of 8,000 pre-orders. 7,800 by the latest estimates. People were really excited
20:44
for this book. So, let's hear just a little bit from Aud herself from before everything went wrong. I am the creator
20:52
of the world of Guardian, which is a fantasy world based around the zodiac signs, and I am the author of a book
20:57
called The Age of Scorpius, which is the debut novel to this world. It is available on Tik Tok right now for
21:03
pre-order. Little bit of a flex here. I have sold about 1,400 copies on pre that
21:11
was just in May, by the way, so those numbers went up for a debut. I'm an
21:17
independent author. Cool stuff. I'll read to you what is hooking so many people. It is in the description of this
21:24
product if you get curious and want to know more. Um I do only have a hundred
21:30
orders per day and that is because I pack and ship the bookmarks before I pack and ship the order at the end of
21:36
this month to early June and they've been selling out usually before noon. So if you're thinking about getting this,
21:42
do it before it's too late. That's my advice or you'll have to wait a day. I don't know if any other authors have
21:47

this problem, but I've tried to record this like four times now. I can't read my own writing. It makes me feel weird.
21:52
Any I'm going to read it anyway. Welcome to Guardian. A World War One zodiac sign determines their magic fake social
21:57
status. 18-year-old Ra has been determined all her life to piece together Guardian's fragmented
22:02
historical record and reverse her signs motionless code of honor. When she finally locates an ancient archive
22:08
containing classified knowledge of Guardians history, Ra discovers a scroll that reveals the existence of a
22:14
mythological weapon and uncovers the truth behind the Scorpio code. It's nothing more than a manipulation tactic
22:20
to keep Scorpio in power. Violating the code's holy orders is punishable by death. Enrique has broken the first
22:26
tenant. Never show emotion. Unless she wants to be murdered for displaying her anger against the law's will, she must
22:32
find and prove that a mythological weapon is more than a story before she's killed by the strangely familiar
22:38
assassins sent to stop her. A couple more like interesting things about this book is that it's kind of a blend
22:45
between high fantasy, dystopian, heavy on dystopian,
22:51
and sword and sorcery, a little bit of romance. It does feature a sappic
22:56
protagonist. my protagonist. Mine too. Yes, I am so using this as an
23:02
opportunity to talk about my book. I don't want to hear nobody in the comments being like, "Oh, you can't you
23:07
can't talk about your book. You're just using this to promote your book." No, I am talking about this not to promote my book because I'm obsessed with this
23:13
situation. I find it intensely interesting and I have a lot to say about it. However, I am also going to
23:19

take the opportunity to talk about my book. My book has gay mermaids. There
23:24
you go. Let's continue with Audra, though. is a lesbian, as am I. I can go into
23:29
Guardians history more, too. Um, probably in a different video because that would literally make this video 8
23:35
minutes long. So, if you're interested, let me know. I'd be happy to talk about it. And I hope this sounds interesting
23:40
to you. Thank you for listening and hope I hooked you. Welcome to the world of Guardian. My name is Audrey.
23:46
So, let's see if we can see any of the comments from before this came out. Okay. Yeah, we can actually immediately.
23:52
I'm calling it now. Unless the author wishes against it, we will see an Age of Scorpius movie franchise. And uh Audra
24:01
hearts this and says, "Don't delete this comment. I'm bookmarking it." Uh, somebody being homophobic. Okay. Somebody else
24:08
said, "This might be the book that gets me back into reading." Which is like a pretty big thing for an author to hear.
24:14
Lots of people just being like really excited about this at the time. So, you
24:20
know, it was it was primed to be a success. But let's have a look at some of the reviews on the book itself since
24:28
it came out. And we can actually see a little bit of uh of chapter 1 of this
24:36
book. So, currently, The Age of Scorpius by Audra Winter has a 1.61
24:42
star rating on Goodreads. That's not good if if that wasn't clear. Um, so I'm
24:49
going to read the synopsis for you, although you heard a little bit of that already, and then we'll read some of the uh reviews that people left. I just want
24:56
to say really quickly because I can hear myself in my own ears. I understand that my voice is uh a little bit
25:04
today, guys. I'm a writer. I know words like gh um my voice is a little bit off
25:10

today. I've been really sick. I'm okay today, but my voice is still not recovered fully. Yeah, it's always the
25:15
first thing to go, which is why whenever I get sick, you don't see me for like a week or two, cuz my voice is the first
25:22
to go and the last to come back. It's great. I've also just been having a week. All right, so please don't be mean
25:30
about my voice in the comments. Anyway, The Age of Scorpius and its premise became a Tik Tok sensation in 2021 with
25:37
over 3.5 million likes and 8 million views. This highly anticipated YA
25:42
fantasy debut by Audrey Winter is filled with magical mysteries, found family, forbidden powers, and strong rebellious
25:49
women. The Age of Scorpius is a unique blend of the sword and sorcery, dystopian, mystery, and romanty genres
25:56
featuring a sappic protagonist and diverse cast of characters. Welcome to Guardian, a world where one zodiac sign
26:03
determines their magic, fate, and social status. So, uh, we kind of heard this bit already, so I won't read that for
26:09
you. I just kind of wanted to see what it said here. Let's get in to the reviews. So, here here's just a look of
26:17
of what they look like. I was about to like lift up my phone to show you as if I don't have it on screen already. Zara
26:24
rated this one star. Would have been a DNF, which for those of you who aren't involved with um the the book world,
26:31
that means did not finish. I always thought it meant did not [__] with. Like I truly believe that until I heard
26:37
somebody on TikTok say that that that it meant do not finish. Would have been a DNF, but I made myself finish it because
26:43
I wanted to give it an honest shot. To say it was poorly written, poorly developed, and poorly edited would be an
26:50

understatement. She has even misspelled her own madeup words. The characters are especially irksome. All flat and
26:57
flawless with the exception of Aia, who is obnoxious, but not nearly as bad as the other characters made her out to be.
27:03
Ka comes off like a bully and a busy body for getting involved in Aia and Enrique's sister relationship. Though
27:08
the narrative paints her as righteous and noble, none of them are likable. And for all the authors talk about emotions,
27:14
nothing these characters feel come across as earned in any way. This is why when someone tells you your book isn't
27:20
ready, you don't just dismiss it because it's not something you want to hear. It's a shame because the concept has
27:26
potential, but it needs so much more time. 10 years of writing means nothing when you are barely developed individual
27:33
for most of it. Books that were written by teenagers read like they were written by teenagers. And in this case, the age
27:38
of Scorpius reads like it was written by a 12-year-old. 10 rewrites or 25, the
27:44
author's writing never developed beyond the skill of a child. I'm baffled. It's quite harsh, but it's not inaccurate.
27:53
It's not. While I commend her passion for her project, her success in popularizing her book as well as
27:59
building a fan base before even publishing a single world is her only impressive feat. Perhaps she should
28:04
consider a career shift to literary marketing. And this kind of sums up a lot of people's opinions about this
28:11
book. Um, it's it's not just that like the story maybe isn't the best or it's
28:17
boring or something, right? If that was the case, this wouldn't have become such a huge situation. it would have just
28:23
been another, oh well, we didn't like it that much. The problem with it was that it read like it wasn't edited, which

28:30
Audre hates to hear, but it is the fact. I've read like bits of it. I haven't read the whole thing. It reads like it
28:37
wasn't edited. It's really confusing to read. It's just like on a line level,
28:42
it's really badly written. It's not just even about the plot or anything, which again has its own issues, but the actual
28:49
writing. She repeats sentences. It's like it's a first draft, which in my own
28:55
opinion, it might be. And like this person said here, 10 years of writing means nothing when you were a kid for
29:01
most of it. However, Audra herself has said that her revision
29:06
process means that when she has to make revisions, she starts the book again.
29:14
So, that's not good because that means that she's constantly writing first
29:19
drafts. Now, I say this is somebody who isn't published yet, right? So, you can take everything I say with a grain of
29:26
salt, but like it's pretty well established that writing is rewriting
29:32
and editing is one of the biggest parts of the writing process. I mean, my book,
29:38
the first draft was finished ages ago, but editing was going on until
29:44
like now because there are so many edits that have to be done. It's a really long
29:50
process and you have to get a really strong relationship with your editor. It's it's not an easy thing because your
29:56
first draft is going to be awful. Awful. Like really, really, really bad. There's
30:03
no way around it unless you are some kind of prodigy, which maybe Audrey thinks she is. We'll get into that as
30:10
well. But if all Audrey is doing when she needs to make revisions and edits is instead of like, you know, rereading her
30:16
manuscript and make notes herself or changing bits or being like, "Okay, I need to kind of remove this chapter or
30:23

like fix this series of events or like add something here, change this wording." Instead of doing any of that,
30:29
she just starts and writes another first draft. That in my mind is never going to work.
30:36
Like that is not going to give you a successful book. And clearly it didn't. Let's read a
30:44
couple more. Post reads with Rachel. Sorry, I got really excited there. Reads
30:49
with Rachel is actually one of I think I'm sure other people have done full reviews on uh The Age of Scorpius, but
30:56
Reads with Rachel is the only one that I've seen who's done a full review of Age of Scorpius. And I can actually
31:02
attest that I watch her channel quite a bit. Um she's my channel that I watch
31:07
when I'm like cleaning the kitchen. I just have my headphones on. But also, my
31:12
own book, Yeah, we're talking about my book again. Get over it. My own book, I
31:17
feel, was completely changed from what it was originally going to be because of
31:24
a review that Rachel did. Anyway, she didn't give a full review here, but she
31:29
did on YouTube, so I'll link that in the description. Anyway, this other person rated it one star and said, "Like other reviews have stated, I follow this
31:35
author on Tik Tok and wanted to support her incredible feat of amassing such a huge fan base for her debut book.
31:41
According to her, this book took 10 years to develop, which meant she started writing it when she was 12. As
31:46
someone who wrote many stories when she was younger, the entire saga behind this book spoke to me. I really wanted to
31:52
support indie, which is kind of a lot of the thinking that a lot of people had. They were like, "Oh, wow. She started
31:59
writing at such a young age. She's really passionate about this. Of course, I want to support her. And of course, you would, you know, until you read the
32:05
book. Unfortunately, the writing is painfully juvenile and left me deeply disappointed. Finishing the book was a

32:11
chore. As a whole, the concept intrigued me and I respect the amount of work she put into marketing. However, there were
32:17
a large amount of grammatical errors coupled with terrible sentence structure, which made me question if it
32:22
had even been edited. See, there it is. The world building was also flat. Heavily info dumped with poor execution
32:29
and then repeated in her characters stilled dial stilted dialogue.
32:35
Here we go. I was doing so well guys with speaking as well as her narrative. This world is set in a post-apocalyptic
32:41
Earth where characters are armed with both medieval weaponry and watches and where zodiac magic is introduced at
32:47
birth. Initially, it was intriguing to see how an author may try to turn zodiac stereotypes on their head, but
32:53
unfortunately, the character motivations and characteristics were not unique enough to do so. The societal commentary
32:59
regarding the code of each zodiac was surface level. The author clearly wanted a tale of rise against the oppressor,
33:05
but there were no oppressors nor true dystopian ideas in place. The characters
33:10
spoke so unnaturally about their own world, it read as though the author wasn't sure we would get enough world building from the narrative. a narrative
33:17
that repeated itself often. For example, she begins chapter 2 with, "Though midwinter raged throughout the rest of
33:23
Guardian, Conviction Woods kept its humid warmth all year round." Nearly a page later, though, she repeats, "Though
33:30
midwinter raged throughout the rest of Guardian, Conviction Woods kept its human human warmth humid warmth all year
33:38
long." There were an unnecessary amount of commas, semicolons, and m dashes that were incorrectly used throughout every
33:44

sentence, which was jarring and disruptive. Simple words like merely, and irresistible were unusually placed,
33:51
while other adjectives and wow,
33:56
lads. Shall we try that again? Right. Uh while other adjectives and similar
34:02
meanings were doubled up, which indicates there is a misunderstanding of definitions/ vocabulary.
34:08
Other terms words are repeated to a point where they began to lose meaning like the affforementioned conviction
34:14
woods. Their misspellings of common words and misspellings of her own madeup words. All of these errors made this
34:21
novel appear sloppy which was genuinely disheartening. I was so excited to support a book that had beautiful
34:27
artwork, years of development, and such astounding passion behind it. She has several older videos on Tik Tok that
34:33
refer to this novel as award-winning on both a state and national level before it was ever published. I'm leaning
34:39
towards the possibility that it won awards for her age group, not necessarily in skill or content. Writing
34:45
a book this size is impressive, and I do still commend anyone who publishes their work, especially at such a young age.
34:51
But for an adult, this is a really tough debut. Now, this mentioned a lot of
34:56
artwork, right? And that was one of the big things about this book and one of the things that got people really
35:02
interested is that Audrey would post a lot of art on the uh Tik Tok account,
35:09
which is a good thing, right? Like she's commissioning artists, all of that, and she's getting people to work with her.
35:15
But it seems now that the book is out, her whole focus seemed to be more on
35:20
like, oo, look, here's my world. here's all the art in the book rather than I
35:26

enjoy being a writer. And I was going to get into this at the end, but I'll just tell you one of the things I think now
35:32
and we'll talk more about it later, but to put it very bluntly, I don't think that Audra Winter actually wants to be a
35:39
writer. I think she has spoken so passionately about the
35:44
world, right? She's talked about that. She says it's her special interest. It's like the one thing in her life that has
35:50
meaning and has stayed with her forever and it's all she cares about is this world. But she's never said she really
35:57
cares about the writing. I don't know that she's ever put any effort into learning the craft of writing. I don't
36:03
think she cares about being a writer or being an author because as soon as she started making money from this, she
36:10
switched to calling herself an entrepreneur with a six-f figureure business and the creator of the world of
36:16
Guardian, not the author of this, not an aspiring writer. And
36:21
personally, I would go so far as to say she probably doesn't read a lot either.
36:27
That is my own personal opinion, but I've never seen her talk about books that she enjoys reading. I've never seen
36:33
her mention any other books like ever. She just talks about her own one, which obviously she's promoting it, but she
36:40
also reads like, but her book also reads like
36:46
she doesn't read. Like it seems like it was written by someone who doesn't read often. And to be a writer, you really
36:52
need to be reading like not just stuff that you like. you need need to be reading like a huge array of stuff. You
36:58
can't write a book if you don't regularly read books. This just the way it works. That again,
37:06
my opinion. But it seemed like a lot of the focus was on the artwork, on the world building. So, if we go back to her

37:12
TikTok, I'm going to just keep talking because this is copyrighted music that's
37:18
going. God, my voice sounds extra beautiful
37:25
when I'm when I'm getting over the sickness. Anyway, yeah. So, you can see like a lot of art getting people really
37:31
excited. Buildings from the concept artists and stuff. Now, she has hired a lot of artists, which again, I think is
37:37
a good thing. But she immediately turned this into a
37:42
business. As soon as she started making money, she hired a team. That team
37:48
changes numbers. It's been like up to 20 I think up to 20 artists and stuff for
37:55
this one book when this book became the world of Guardian LLC. So her whole
38:02
thing is not to be a writer, it's to make a multimedia franchise. And she has
38:09
said that herself that she wants The World of Guardian to be a multimedia franchise. But maybe write the book
38:14
first. maybe put money into the editors and the editing process and focus on
38:20
that and then once that's successful and the book is good and people like it then you can branch out into the multimedia
38:27
stuff cuz there's nothing to say that you can't do that now because of her love for the art people have suggested
38:32
that maybe she should have just written a graphic novel because her writing isn't particularly good right
38:40
I beg to differ because I think that comes from a fundamental misunderstanding understanding that
38:46
graphic novels are just about the art. And they are hugely about the art, but the writing also needs to be good. The
38:53
the ability to craft a story also needs to be good. You can't just be like, well, I I'm not a good writer, so I
38:58

guess I'll do a graphic novel. No, you still need to be able to write a good gripping story for people. I would even
39:04
argue, maybe this is just a me thing because I I write longer form stuff. I
39:09
would argue that in some ways it's actually more difficult because you're trying to write a concentrated
39:14
story. You're trying to put all these character developments and arcs and story development and plot lines into
39:21
much less text. And I would say that is in its own way really really
39:26
challenging. So it's not a case of just h well she likes her world so she should just write a graphic novel. I I I don't
39:32
know. I don't I think she needs to just work on learning how to write to be perfectly honest. Audrey Winter. I am an
39:38
author and the creator of the world of Guardian, which is a fantasy world based around the zodiac signs that I have been
39:43
working on for 10 years now. I am getting ready to publish the first book set in that world. It is called The Age
39:49
of Scorpius, and it comes out next month. That book has defied the odds, and that is why I've been getting this
39:55
question a lot recently. I have sold almost 800 signed copies of The Age of
40:00
Scorpius. It is my debut as an indie author. I sold those on pre-order. actually
40:06
looked up the other day if this has ever been seen before in publishing or if there's any kind of record for how many
40:12
signed copies a debut indie author has sold and Google showed me my own video.
40:18
I am a little bit separated from the publishing community in the publishing industry and that is because I will only
40:26
write in the world of Guardian. I created it when I was 12 and ever since I created it I have spent 3 hours or
40:32
more every single day writing in that same world. When I was 14, I actually self-published a book. It is not

40:38
published anymore. In fact, it was unpublished about 6 months after it was initially published. It wasn't getting
40:44
the attention I wanted it to get. And so, I did more research and I said, "Well, maybe I need to go over into
40:51
traditional publishing." So, at the age of 15 years old, I started quering literary agents. I was so motivated to
40:59
get a literary agent that even after I was 15 to 18 years old, I was queering
41:06
literary agents the entire time. I was going to writer conferences. Um, but around 18, uh, the world of Guardian
41:12
started going viral on TikTok. I'm very surprised that I didn't change my path right then and there, but I actually
41:19
stuck with traditional publishing. And I think that was just because I had truly
41:24
gotten the idea in my head that I only had value as an author if I was picked
41:30
up by a publisher. And this probably stems from the idea of how many rejections I got when I was younger.
41:36
When you go into an art in a craft at such a young age, you literally get rejection after rejection day after day.
41:42
I needed the validation in traditional publishing. I needed an agent to say, "This is good enough. You're ready." I
41:49
needed a publisher to say, "I'm ready to invest in this because in my head, that was the only way of me knowing that I
41:56
was ready." When I signed with my literary agency at age 19, I stayed with
42:02
them when I was 19, 20, and 21. After working with a literary agency for 3
42:07
years straight, they decided to drop about 20 of their authors who wrote in science fiction and fantasy because they
42:13
did not represent the genre anymore. That was not cool. I could have stayed in very well. Uh, I I knew that and I
42:20
actually queried a couple of agents back in like August and then it hit me that I don't want to

42:26
do that. I ultimately made the decision to go indie again because I wanted to
42:32
retain creative freedom over my world and I knew my book was ready. I knew that I had a start to a world that
42:41
needed to go out into the world. The thing that I missed before is the confidence in my work in my world. And
42:47
that's what I came into indie publishing with. I said, I am going to mimic the
42:53
traditional publishing process as closely as I can. And that's what I did. I hired the editor that published The
43:02
Hunger Games. I have another editor who has worked for big five publishers for
43:07
30 years. I have a team of 15 artists. found that team of 15 artists from a
43:13
variety of platforms um including Reddit and Deviant Art. I sent out callout
43:18
posts and I looked through about 600 art portfolios. I've always kind of known that I wanted Guardian to be a shared
43:25
creative space that I don't want people looking over me, but people on a team
43:31
contributing to the world itself. Ultimately, the main reason that I went back into self-publishing was driven by
43:37
all these reasons that I wanted to work with a team. I wanted to be able to choose who edited my book. I wanted to
43:44
be able to choose the formatter. I wanted to be able to choose the artists. And that is because I have never been in
43:52
publishing to make money. Uh I've never been
43:58
I I've never been an author that wanted to just start series after series after series. I want to dedicate myself to one
44:06
larger story and that's the world that I created. And by staying independent, I
44:11
can focus on the world itself. I don't need to be controlled by a publisher. I don't need to be controlled by an agent
44:17

and I can access the same services that they would offer. The other big driver is that I am incredibly anti- AI. I
44:24
think it is a detriment to artists, writers, anybody in the creative scene. I have very strong opinions about it. If
44:30
you've been on my page, you know that. And that's because I, as somebody who's
44:35
written for 10 years, I didn't have AI while I was writing. And that's what made me a good writer. You have to get
44:41
your soul sucked out by editors. As a writer, that's a requirement. You need to get hundreds of rejections. You have
44:48
to get critique to learn. You can't just cheat your way out of it. And on top of that, cheating your way out of it with a
44:55
machine that steals from those writers who have put in the work. After seeing publishers
45:02
use AI for things, I said, I'm done. The path that I have specifically taken is a
45:07
little bit different than what you normally experience as an author. And that is because I just I devoted myself
45:13
to Guardian and I always have and I always will. I am so much more happy to work with a collaborative team and
45:19
establish my world's name in general um and retain my creative control over it
45:25
than giving it up to a publisher. Hopefully this helped. So, you can see
45:31
why a lot of people had hope that this was good. Audrey really talked the talk.
45:36
Like, she goes on about how she's faced so many rejections. She's had editors,
45:42
you know, call her out and help her or whatever, and that is why she's now a good writer. She also said she has an
45:48
editor who worked on The Hunger Games. This is entirely misleading because my
45:53
understanding of the situation based on what people have dug up online is that the editor that she had was not the
46:01
developmental editor of the Hunger Games. The editor that she had worked on
46:07

marketing in the Hunger Games and now works as a contracted editor. Those are
46:13
two different things. But she made it sound like her editor edited the Hunger Games, which seems to not be the case.
46:22
Plus, she goes on about, you know, she's a good writer and she's written, you know, 3 hours a day every day, which she
46:28
in one uh video when somebody was saying, "Oh, blah, blah, blah. I mean, not, you know, 10 doesn't matter if
46:36
this, that, or the other." She came back and said, "Well, based on the idea of you need 10,000 hours to be a master at
46:43
something, I've done three hours a day for 10 years. I am a master at writing."
46:51
High hopes for herself. So, the backlash was swift. The reviews were bad. People
46:57
were making Tik Toks about her. People were making YouTube videos about her. I was watching Tik Toks about her and
47:04
about this and just being in shock of the whole thing. And eventually Audra
47:09
did have to respond. So this was the first response that she made and it's just a text post. It says, "It was
47:15
brought to our attention because at this point it's the world of Guardian LLC and she has a team of artists and whatnot.
47:23
It was brought to our attention today that the ebook for The Age of Scorpius has many errors that cause its quality
47:29
to be subpar in comparison to the paperback and hard cover.
47:34
Okay, straight out the bat. Now, I haven't checked the difference between the two because the uh paperback is not
47:42
available anymore. She took it off of Amazon. I would have ordered a copy for myself if I could have, but I can't. So,
47:49
I can only see the ebook version. um and you know the little bits that people
47:54
have put up online. But what people who had both said is that they were both bad
48:00

basically that it wasn't a situation where the ebook had some issues but the paperback didn't. They were both bad. In
48:07
my rush to release the ebook, I did not proof with the same attention and care I gave to the physical copies.
48:14
I am deeply sorry for the disappointment this oversight has caused. So I don't
48:20
understand why the ebook and the paperback would be different. It's
48:25
different formatting, right? But the manuscript should be the same and then you format it for the different things.
48:33
You don't format it and then you know do developmental edits and line edits and copy edits. That would be a nightmare.
48:39
That doesn't make any sense to me. But here we are anyway. We have temporarily
48:44
removed the ebook from sale and plan to re-release it with all art included as well as technical improvements and fixes
48:50
to its content. Since the Kindle preview was the previously available sample, we
48:55
will be re-uploading a free sample within the next 2 hours as scanned pages of the first chapters from the hard
49:01
cover. It will be posted publicly on our Patreon for easy access and linked at the top of my link tree. Additionally,
49:08
we are actively working to update the Amazon and Barnes & Noble standard paperback copies with a higher quality
49:15
second revised edition. So, if the issue is with the ebook, why
49:22
are you revising the paperback? Riddle me that. What do you mean? What do you What do
49:29
you mean? What do you mean? Once released, those who have purchased the first edition will be able to request a
49:36
code on our website for a free digital copy of the second edition. There was nothing wrong with the way that was
49:41
written. I just simply could not read for a minute there. Additionally, I am seeking a second opinion from a third
49:48

editor on potential editing improvements. Earlier this year, I heard two experienced editors to
49:53
developmentally and copyedit The Age of Scorpius. Their names are in the acknowledgements of the book. Prior to
49:58
these passes, The Age of Scorpius was in revision with a literary agent, critique groups, beta readers, and various
50:05
publishing professionals. However, we have heard you. There is always room for improvement. We greatly appreciate the
50:10
encouragement to seek further feedback and polish the revised second edition and strive to ensure a comfortable
50:16
reader experience. See, if the issue was with the formatting of the ebook, then you wouldn't need to do this. So, that
50:21
first slide was really misleading, but you know, getting a new editor. Good.
50:26
Good. During this time, I will be taking a small break from posting. My overall health has been deeply impacted and
50:32
affected by the expectation for me to respond to criticism and critique less than a month after my first new release.
50:39
Posting intentionally harmful criticisms on my page directed to me with a demand for me to answer puts me in an
50:45
uncomfortable position as an author. Though I vastly appreciate all reader feedback and advice, I have in turn
50:51
received alarming, hurtful, and misconstrued harassment intended to cause harm to me and my team. With
50:57
increasing safety concerns, it is in my best interest to step away from audience engagement. I cannot say thank you
51:03
enough for all the support and feedback I've received thus far. I've been showered with unconditional love, kindness, and patience as I learn and
51:10
adapt my way through a new path in publishing. In just a few months, I have unexpectedly become a new business owner
51:15
of a creative studio with 20 plus contractors and employees. My aim has always been to uphold and foster a

51:22
positive community of creatives who love creating and developing Guardian as much as I do. There's nothing more in my life
51:28
that I care so deeply about than bringing joy to others in the form of storytelling while operating a
51:33
collaborative space for many dedicated and passionate artists. I'm 22. There is
51:38
still much for me to learn, but in the meantime, I'm doing everything I possibly can to deliver a product that
51:44
properly reflects the love put into this project on behalf of myself and my team.
51:49
Thank you for all the feedback. It has vastly helped me to understand exactly where I can make improvements to
51:54
continuously give a voice to independent artisters
51:59
and writists across the world. I myself am a writist, not much of an arter,
52:04
though I did attempt to do some art recently. I tried to draw some of my characters and I think considering that
52:10
I am not an artist, that went okay. Somebody said the ebook should be the exact same copy/d document as the
52:17
paperback, just different formatting. So, there's that. That's what I said. Extra rounds of editing might make the
52:23
book less bad, but I'd recommend learning how to interact with people and res respond to criticism in non-hostile
52:28
ways before the re-release. This is in reference to her being quite defensive a lot of the time. I can't get into, you
52:35
know, every single little thing. this video will be 5 hours. Even though I would love to sit here and talk about every single little thing for 5 hours,
52:40
but she has been a little bit defensive. Um, like I said, somebody said, you know, 10 years of writing means you've
52:48
worked in the industry, and she's like, well, I'm a master of writing, actually. So, you know, there's that. Confused as
52:54

to why the paperback and ebook are different versions to begin with. Shouldn't only the formatting be different? Am I misinterpreting or does
53:01
it seem like her saying the editor's name in her book acknowledgements seems like she's placing blame on them? Not
53:07
yet, but she will. We'll get there. Refunds accountability. You chose to be a very public-f facing author. Promoting
53:15
and bragging on Tik Tok daily. You asked for this. I bet if it was praise, you wouldn't take a break. But sure,
53:21
definitely take a break from you accountability. So, um I don't think people are owed a
53:28
refund to be perfectly honest. People were demanding a refund for this book because the quality was so bad. And I can understand why it's upsetting to
53:36
spend so much money on a book. Like the book itself was like 20 something dollars and people were spending like
53:41
upwards of like $50 on it um with shipping and everything. It's not a
53:47
cheap book, right? And to get something so awful when you were so excited, it's disappointing. However,
53:54
it is a gamble. I just I don't think there's any kind of refund owed here, unfortunately. But I understand why
54:00
people want it, you know. I thought the book was good considering the fact that she told readers that it was written from an age view of 11 to 12 and that is
54:08
not the same as Acatar or Fourthwing.
54:14
I was like, what the hell is Fu? I think everyone is comparing it to these titles and they are on two completely different
54:20
levels. It is teen more so than YA. Her writing will get better as time goes on and for her debut book isn't as bad as
54:27
y'all are making it out to be. Give the girl some grace. Stop being so negative. It's nice that she has, you know, people rooting for her. Although she says this
54:34
is from the age view of 11 to 12. Yes, but Audra is 22. Anyway, we could read these comments all day, but let's see
54:40

Audra's next response. So, another uh text post, and this she says, "This coming Monday, August 4th, I'll be
54:47
making a big announcement. I've been absorbing all the feedback on The Age of Scorpius, and it's become clear I missed
54:52
the mark. My team and I are cooking up a way to make it right. I'm determined to make this book the best it can be. Until
54:59
Monday, I'm staying offline. This situation took a huge toll on all aspects of my health, and I've only just
55:04
begun to recover from the most heartbreak and humility I've ever experienced. Though receiving tough
55:09
criticism is part of being an artist, I've also encountered hurtful rumors, misinformation, and occasional cruelty
55:16
coming through both my public server and private Tik Tok comments and messages.
55:22
It got so severe that Tik Tok stepped in and placed my profile under an anti-bullying protection. I'm aware that
55:29
Goodreads froze the book's page, but I haven't yet heard from them as to why. I'll update you as soon as I know more.
55:35
Sometimes Goodread does that when it thinks a book is being review bombed. Um because like people might get into drama
55:42
online that has nothing to do with their book and then people will go and review bomb it with like one star. So Goodreads
55:48
steps in to try and stop that from happening. So that might have been what happened there, but I don't claim to know what happened there. All right.
55:55
Thank you for your criticism, encouragement, and understanding. All of this has driven me to get back up and do
56:00
it better than ever. See you soon. So then we get into the first video response.
56:05
My name is Audrey Winter and I am going to be redoing this book. My entire life flipped upside down. I was in so much
56:13
shock that I absolutely lost sight of what was most important and that was
56:18

delivering my voice and my story in the best way that I could. I did myself an injustice and I did my story in
56:24
injustice. But I don't give up. I especially don't give up on the thing that matters the most to me and that is
56:30
storytelling and bringing other people joy. So here is what I am doing to make that right. We're re-releasing the
56:36
entire thing. I have taken the feedback and the criticisms that I've received especially in the past week and I have
56:43
discussed them and processed them in this time that I was not on the app and I genuinely so badly want to make this
56:50
the best that it can be. I am recruiting a copy editor and a proofreader from my audience. So people that are watching my
56:58
videos because I am receiving a lot of wonderful feedback and I do have a lot of authors and writers and editors who
57:04
follow me and there are people who want to help and I'm seeing that and I'm recognizing that. So I want to be able
57:10
to find someone from my readers and from the people who are supporting me to be
57:17
on my team. I will be opening up. People were immediately pointing out that that was a terrible idea. And she did uh
57:23
change that, thank God, cuz I also agree that that's a terrible idea. You do not want your editor to be from your
57:29
audience. You want your editor to be like a third party with no stakes in
57:34
this, no like chance of any kind of like parasocial going ons or like any kind of
57:41
bias or preconceived notions of your book. We want this to be a a a removed
57:48
party. Like, and that's not to say that like you can't work with people you know or something, but I'm saying when it's
57:53
your audience, it's a whole different thing. So, I just think that's a bad idea. But she also didn't do that in the
58:00

end. Thank god. Auditions for that on Tuesday. It's literally just going through the first chapter of the book
58:06
and marking it up as much as you can. We're going to be looking at the different styles and then we'll be doing onboarding by the end of next week for
58:13
these revisions to start. Some of the things that we have already looked at changing and have plans to change would
58:19
be the narration style in the voice exposition obviously copy edits and line edits and removing those errors content
58:26
addition and revision more charts and guides and dialogue while we're doing these revision. So she said yeah we're
58:32
going to change everything. Some people were pointing out that this is a lot of work for the editor to be doing and this
58:39
reads more like the work that she herself should be doing. Now, I don't necessarily see this as she's saying the
58:44
editor is going to be doing this, but she wants to do this, which good, because it wasn't good in the original
58:50
book. I I don't say this to be mean, like, I'm not trying to be mean. It genuinely wasn't good. I You know me,
58:57
you guys know me. I try and be as nice as I can. And I really wanted to root for her. I really did. I didn't hear
59:03
about her before the drama, but even after the drama, I just felt bad for her.
59:08
But the book was not good. no matter how you feel about it. It is only fair to you guys to be able
59:13
to see what improvements we're making if you want to continue to support us or be like, "Nope, this isn't my thing." So,
59:19
we are going to post those revised chapters as we're going up until December on Patreon for free. So, free
59:26
to public, free to access. I will say as well, she also changed the timeline, but December way too ambitious
59:33
to change that many things in the book. just completely not possible unless you

59:40
have a team of like a billion co-authors.
59:45
We're not going to be doing all of them, but definitely enough for you to get a good idea of what are the improvements
59:50
that we're making, what are the things that we're changing, and what direction are we going into. Once we are fully
59:56
confident that this is what we are going to put out to the world, we are offering anybody who has bought any version of
1:00:03
the book a free digital copy. You can go on to our website and we have a form for that where if you want to put in the
1:00:09
order number from whatever platform you bought the book on, you can put yourself
1:00:14
on a list to receive a digital copy once we finished and have that ready in December. On top of that, there were
1:00:20
5,000 excited readers for this hard cover and for this book. And so we are
1:00:26
going to redo the hard cover. We're going to redo the limited edition hard coverver. We're going to do another hardcover run of 5,000. and it's going
1:00:34
to be released in December as well. For those of you that bought the hard cover already, we are offering a 50% discount
1:00:40
on a $30 book. The price is going up a little bit because we're improving the quality of the book as a whole, not just
1:00:46
the writing. We're adding more art and more involvement from a whole creative team and the features of the book.
1:00:52
Different cover, different interior, different end pages, sprayed edges. We're going all out. We're going all
1:00:57
out. But if you're somebody who has already purchased the hard cover and you do want to give us another chance or you
1:01:04
do want to read the story again, it's available for $15 there. We also do
1:01:09
have it on the Tik Tok shop if you're somebody new to my page who has found me and the chaos that this has been.
1:01:15

This was the the point of this response that people really took issue with because she said,
1:01:22
"So, I'm revising the book. I'm going to make it better." Right?
1:01:29
I hate to laugh. It's just It's just funny in a tragic sort of way.
1:01:36
She's really going, "So, I'm going to re-release the book, but it's going to be more expensive now because I'm adding
1:01:42
more art and sprayed edges, whereas people do not care about the more art.
1:01:48
People wanted a readable book. That's all they want. They don't want to pay more for it." One thing I haven't seen
1:01:53
people point out is the fact that she said they're going to be doing another run of 5,000 books, which is where I
1:01:58
kind of think her dulu is starting to come into play, which may again sound mean, but I say none of this to be mean.
1:02:05
I say it to be realistic. People were excited for your book. The
1:02:10
book was bad because, as she will admit at some point, she rushed through editing. She didn't edit properly.
1:02:18
And so, the book was terrible. So, people don't want to buy the next one.
1:02:24
Like, people aren't going to be like, "Oh, great. Let me buy the revised version. People already tried it. They they didn't like it. Why would you get
1:02:31
5,000 more orders?" I just don't see it happening. But I don't think she realizes that. I would
1:02:38
love nothing more for this to be a success story. I honestly mean that. I would love nothing more for her to turn this whole thing around, work on her
1:02:45
craft, become an amazing writer, write a successful book, and to be loved, right? I don't see it in the cards. And I don't
1:02:52
see how you can be so convinced you will get 5,000 pre-orders of this new revised
1:03:00
version of the hard cover makes no sense. Plus the fact that she's saying like if you already bought the book and
1:03:06
you weren't happy, you can now buy the new book, which is more expensive, but for 50% off, although you do get the

1:03:12
free ebook. So, there is that, you know, uh if you want to support us. The paperback listing that is already on the
1:03:19
Tik Tok shop, we are pushing that back to December, and I'm sorry about that, but we want to deliver you a quality
1:03:25
copy. That one is going to remain the same as what is on the listing. So, it'll have the cover and the sprayed
1:03:31
edges and the interior illustrations. We just want to make sure we're updating the writing content and the interior
1:03:37
content to be up to par to the standard that we are releasing with the revised
1:03:43
second edition. At the time I posted this video, our print ondemand versions of this book will be completely
1:03:49
discontinued. So, that first version is no longer available. I am not selling it
1:03:55
anywhere. Um, and that is because we want to put out the best version of the story that we can. And that best version
1:04:02
is going to be the second version, which I will say, um, if anybody has a
1:04:07
copy of The Age of Scorpius and would like to send it to me, or I could maybe
1:04:13
buy it from you or something, please. I would love to get my hands on a copy. I
1:04:19
I I want this piece of history, you know? I I want this piece of history. I
1:04:25
also just feel like I would love to compare the like the ebook and the
1:04:31
physical book myself instead of just taking people's word for it. So yeah, if anybody has it, I don't know how you
1:04:37
would send it to me cuz I'm not giving you my address, but we'll figure it out. I don't know. But
1:04:44
yeah, I I genuinely mean that if anybody has a spare copy lying around, I would
1:04:50
really like to get my hands on it that we are making. I learned a big lesson throughout all of this and that lesson being misunderstanding. I wrote a
1:04:58
book about misunderstanding and I felt misunderstood. This is something that I have been grappling with my entire life.

1:05:03
I am somebody who is neurode divergent and I was afraid of being interpreted
1:05:09
wrong because of this because I do know that I write in a different voice in a different style in a different
1:05:14
perspective. I had intended this book to be read that way, but it did not land at
1:05:22
all in the way that I was expecting. That does not mean I am removing that identity or that representation from my
1:05:29
text. I am going to do it better. So, it matches what my audience's expectations
1:05:35
are. And I think this is a good learning experience for her because it's yeah definitely right from like different
1:05:41
perspectives and stuff like whatever your perspective is on life right from that. But I'll give you an example,
1:05:48
right? So I have ADHD. So if I was to write a book with the character
1:05:54
narrating it the way that I think that would be completely unreadable. I also
1:06:00
don't know how I would write that because you would need overlapping lines. It just would not be readable. it
1:06:05
would not be an enjoyable book to read. So, you can have a character with ADHD, but you still have to tweak it so that
1:06:11
the actual writing is readable for people in general. I want to have a book
1:06:18
that is enjoyable to read and understand. I was scared when I released this and I got defensive and that was
1:06:25
wrong. On that note, I will not be engaging with my comments anymore. I want to be able to respect the space of
1:06:32
my readers and them discussing amongst themselves and I want them to feel safe
1:06:37
doing that. And if my page is where they feel safe doing that, it's welcome and I
1:06:43
will take a step back. To all the people that were encouraging me and telling me to get up, get back up. Don't let this
1:06:50

take you down. Don't let it take your passion away from this. I appreciate you and I hear you and I hear all the
1:06:55
feedback that I have been given and considering it and I cannot express how
1:07:00
much I I needed that. I needed that so badly and thank you for that. However,
1:07:08
criticism and bullying are two different things. In the span of a single day, I went from readers trying to help to
1:07:16
hearing some of the most horrible things that could be said to me. Uh, so severe
1:07:21
in fact that Tik Tok literally just remember her saying in the span of
1:07:27
a day. That's going to be important later. So severe in fact that Tik Tok literally
1:07:33
had to put multiple anti-bullying protections on my page. Uh, they put one
1:07:38
on my entire page and then started to notify me of different videos that they put additional protections on because of
1:07:46
the amount of cyber bullying that I have experienced during this time. the amount of misinformation and rumors that we saw
1:07:54
spread. I just wanted to pause this to see what example she's using. She's using this as
1:08:00
examples of people spreading rumors, not about the people bullying her. But I
1:08:06
want to read these because people that I've seen on TikTok are saying she's lying about like people being mean to
1:08:11
her. I don't necessarily agree. I think the majority of comments were people just trying to tell her, you need to,
1:08:18
you know, fix this or that or this isn't good or that isn't good. And that's not bullying. But as somebody who's on the
1:08:25
internet, people are horrible. Even if you see one or two comments that are
1:08:31
like buried and nobody else sees them, but you see them, those things ruin your day. Or they used to ruin my day. Now I
1:08:38
don't care. I'm on certainly nothing gets to me anymore. Um, so, you
1:08:46

know, it can hurt. So, I'm not doubting her there. And I think if anybody is trying to like actually be mean to her
1:08:52
or calling her out personally, really not cool. Um, unnecessary. You can criticize a book, a piece of art,
1:08:59
anything, right? That is fair game. But to be mean to the person who made it is unnecessary and cruel. So, and I know
1:09:07
that most people weren't being I know that most people weren't, but I don't doubt her that there were probably people who were being horrible to her.
1:09:13
So, anyway, the comments that she puts up here as examples of uh rumors spreading, she literally wrote it this
1:09:21
year in like a month and it shows she did not spend 10 years writing it. I don't know if that's a she said 10 years
1:09:28
writing it, but she said every time she revises she writes the book from start to finish and that she's like tried to
1:09:34
figure out which story to tell in this world. So this particular story, I don't
1:09:39
know that she's been writing this particular story for 10 years, my
1:09:44
opinion. Could she be an industry plant to discredit indies everywhere? I doubt it. The Big Five are getting a huge dip
1:09:51
in sales from indies, so I wouldn't put it past them to try something underhanded to discredit indies across the board. I cannot imagine that they'd
1:09:58
do that. To me, that sounds like a dumb move. They are making money and they could
1:10:05
probably figure out better ways to do it than this. This is also banking on a lot and she's been on TikTok for like a
1:10:11
billion years. Somebody said, "Fully putting on a tin foil hat, but I think maybe she either saved a bunch or maybe
1:10:18
like family money because in my opinion, she definitely paid to promote the [__] out of her Tik Toks." Allegedly, her
1:10:25
status as a Nepo baby helping her get published, reach book stardom might be might not be confirmed, but I'd be
1:10:31

unsurprised if it played a part. I wouldn't recommend comparing yourself to her. Part of her push back is because
1:10:36
she wouldn't allow ARC readers to review and used her autism and sexuality as a shield to deflect and shame people who
1:10:42
didn't like her work. Not to mention, she decided to spend an uh that
1:10:49
thousands on a team of 20 plus people with an IP universe without ever having published before, which was a stupid
1:10:56
stupid move. And if she was a real Nepo baby, she would have parents that understand business that would tell her
1:11:01
how stupid a thing that is to do. So, that's me debunking the Nepo baby rumors right there. If she was like from old
1:11:08
money or something, they'd be like, "Uh, no, don't do that, my love. That is a terrible idea." Not to mention the
1:11:15
reality the book clearly hadn't been edited. Was absurd. There are literal
1:11:20
hundreds of people cheering on my downfall, cheering on the failure, uh, cheering on the death of my success, and
1:11:28
that hurts. This has affected me in every aspect of my life. The timing of
1:11:34
that was so bad that that
1:11:41
I realized as soon as I did it that was not me cheer cheering on her downfall.
1:11:48
That was because this video was taking longer to record than I thought. So I went and I got reinforcements. So I just
1:11:54
wanted to be like, "Hey, look guys, I got reinforcements." But it's really, really bad timing.
1:12:01
Oh no, girly. I swear I'm not praying on your downfall. I already said it. I would love nothing more than to see this be a
1:12:08
success. Um, my my comedic timing is comedic timing, my theatrical timing, my
1:12:14
timing bad. Okay, I apologize. And I don't think I ever
1:12:20
fully will recover from it. And that's speaking out of total honesty. This impacted my health. I stopped

1:12:28
eating. I stopped sleeping. I was up having panic attacks about losing everything that
1:12:34
kept me alive for many, many years. I was worried about losing the team, about these people that I have grown close to
1:12:41
over a course of months. And that is scary. It is scary to lose sight of
1:12:47
finally reaching your dreams and finally being able to live the life that you fought to live for a very long time.
1:12:53
Hearing things like I'm a scam or that I'm just a marketing ploy. I'm trying to
1:12:59
get money from people. That hurts on a level that runs deep. Runs very, very deep for me
1:13:05
because I get on here to talk about my passion. Nothing matters in the world more to me than just being able to tell
1:13:12
stories and bring other people joy and being able to create a space for other artists to Okay, she repeats this a lot
1:13:19
about like all she cares about is creating joy and stuff or whatever. I
1:13:25
think all she cares about is her world. Nothing wrong with that per se, but it's just like it feels like a regurgitated
1:13:31
line because a lot of the way she speaks and starts to speak going forward sounds very businessy. And as we'll even see
1:13:39
there's even news as of like yesterday. There is constant news about this story.
1:13:44
She, you know, this is just in my opinion just a business tour. Like it is a passion, but it's also just a business
1:13:51
to her. Like that's what's important to her, not being a writer, being a business and a successful businesswoman.
1:13:58
Also live their passion. You know what? I found my greatest strength in that. This is everything to me. Every single
1:14:05
thing in my life revolves around this and I am ready to stand and fight for it. I have a voice and I want to make a
1:14:10
difference and I want to do that in the best way possible because I am an advocate for artists supporting artists.

1:14:16
I work very closely with my artists and I think in a day and age where we are
1:14:22
turned so much against each other as competitors, we should be allies. We should be uplifting each other. I want
1:14:29
to be able to represent the value of not really like I guess that I've not
1:14:34
been in the indie publishing space for long enough to know, I guess, but from what I've seen it seems to be like a lot
1:14:39
of people uplifting each other. I feel like it's only it only becomes a competition if that's the way you choose
1:14:46
to think about it. I think it's the same with YouTube, right? Because I've
1:14:51
I'm not uh close with a lot of YouTubers, right? Um really the only
1:14:57
YouTuber that I speak to is Ley. Um she's the only one that I would consider a friend.
1:15:04
YouTubers can tend to feel very competitive about the YouTube space for
1:15:10
some reason and it doesn't need to be that way. And I've always found that like a complete turnoff with people. It's just like it's not that serious
1:15:17
calm down. Like I just can't be around people like that. Whereas it doesn't need to be that. And for certain groups
1:15:23
of people, it's not like you can literally just chill, give each other ideas, like talk about stuff, share your
1:15:29
frustrations or your joys or whatever. and it's a nice thing to have. Uh, and I think it's the same in the indie
1:15:35
publishing space. I'm in a few group chats with indie authors. I don't chat in them regularly. Uh, because I
1:15:41
apparently I'm known among my friends uh and family and loved ones for not responding to messages. I found that out
1:15:47
recently that when people talk about me when I'm not there, that's what they discuss is the fact that I don't respond
1:15:52
to things. So, that's not good. Um, but yeah, I don't message a lot, but I do look from
1:15:58

time to time what people are posting in there. And it's just people being nice to each other, you know? So, I just I
1:16:04
think it just depends where you choose to place yourself in that world. Like, some people are going
1:16:10
to be competitive. That's the nature of it. But it isn't automatically like that. Artistic kinship. I am dedicated to
1:16:17
continuously pioneering through an industry by representing artists and
1:16:22
writers equally and working together as humans to create human art. I will
1:16:27
continue to do the best that I can with this and I want to continue pursuing my
1:16:32
dreams. All of this is strengthening me and it has pushed me to stand up. It has made me aware that I can survive the
1:16:39
worst case scenario. I can continuously push through difficult things and I'm going to thank you for everybody who has
1:16:46
been supporting me and the feedback because I'm getting back up and I'm doing it better and I'm going to do it
1:16:53
the best that I can with every single thing that I have in me and get you guys
1:16:58
a version of the book that you want. My name is Audrey Winter and I Let's look at the comments, shall we?
1:17:04
Somebody said, "Not you making the decision to become the author variant of Elizabeth Holmes in the year 2025." This
1:17:09
is clearly a reference to the outfit that she is wearing. Sorry, but you're an author. Who is we? Why does this
1:17:15
video feel like I'm on the clock in a corporate work meeting? Girly. What? $29.99 is wild when shipping is free at
1:17:23
30. Wait, I didn't know this. She priced
1:17:28
it at $29.99. Free shipping on orders over $30.
1:17:35
That is so funny. I made six figures off the first release, even though it was bad. Now I'm going to redo it and resell
1:17:40

it and make even more money. Audra, with all my love, as a developmental editor and an author with five titles
1:17:46
published, 4 months is not enough time to do this. The book needs a total overhaul. In fact, I recommend shelving
1:17:53
this and practicing by writing more books. We don't want different art. We needed a comprehensive developmental
1:17:58
edit, and that just can't happen in the right way this quickly. Writing is super
1:18:03
hard. You can't be a master of your craft at 22. I'm sure somebody can.
1:18:09
I don't know who, but somebody. Mary Shelly. Mary Shelly. She was a master.
1:18:16
We love her. Girl, instead of artwork, describe the scenes with writing. Our minds will do the artwork. Sorry, that
1:18:23
was very funny to me. Anyway, um, as you can see, that didn't get the best response as we discussed. and she ended
1:18:30
up um giving her whole revision plan for what they are planning to do for this
1:18:36
new version of Age of Scorpius. Even though I agree with the people who say that this should be sheld and she should just work on something else instead, but
1:18:42
she is never going to do that. Even like a different story in the same world would be absolutely fine if she could
1:18:48
just develop it better. Better better. Yeah. My name is Audrey Winter. I am the
1:18:53
creator of the world of Guardian and today I am coming on here to talk about a couple of pretty large updates. We are
1:19:00
pushing the release date of the second edition of AOS into March. I'll explain
1:19:05
why in a second, thank God, but we took a lot of time in the past two weeks with everything going on to
1:19:12
basically put together an eight-step plan for a revision process. My goal is to get through one chapter at least
1:19:19
every week, two if I can, but we don't want to rush it. So one chapter is what I really feel comfortable with based on
1:19:25

the structure that we have built. First step in this revision process is that my team has a meeting at the beginning of
1:19:32
every week before I start revising the chapter. Multiple of us have taken feedback from across the internet from a
1:19:40
lot of you guys and we like to discuss the things that are happening in each chapter and what can we do to improve
1:19:46
it. This core team is made up of about six to eight people across the arts, across different mediums and people who
1:19:54
have already read the first version of the book at least once if not twice. The
1:19:59
second step that I am taking, I just want to point out something here. She says across the arts, right, which
1:20:05
to me I take that to mean that some of the people in this creative team that she's discussing like what needs to be
1:20:11
revised and stuff are the artists. That's my own interpretation of that.
1:20:17
Why would the artists need to be the ones that you discuss the developmental
1:20:22
side of the book with the revisions? The artists should be doing the art and you
1:20:29
and the editor or editors editors should be doing the editing. The artists don't
1:20:36
need to be there. In this revision process is essentially reverse engineering a writing process.
1:20:42
One of my employees is my secondary developer Sullie. I actually get on a call almost every single night for about
1:20:48
3 hours with Sullie and what we are doing is before I start revisions after
1:20:55
the team meeting we then have another brainstorming session and this brainstorming session is me verbally
1:21:01
describing the outline for the revised chapter that I'm doing. So going over scenes, going over plot and I'm working
1:21:08
through them with my words, actively talking and Sullie helps me to develop, change ideas, shift things around. But
1:21:15

what Sally also does is Sullie is an artist and so Sie will literally draw these things while I am outlining and do
1:21:22
some concept art for this chapter. I am why
1:21:27
I want to give you a longer thoughtout response to this section, but all I have to say about that is why
1:21:34
why is that a necessary part of your revision process to have somebody draw this for you? I don't get it. I don't
1:21:42
get it. then writing descriptions based off of that art, which is really, really cool because it's fun to have visuals
1:21:48
while you're writing. And the fact that I can have visuals of the things that I am writing is even cooler. Third step,
1:21:54
simple. I rewrite the chapter. This I do by myself because it's my writing and my
1:21:59
story. Fourth step, the entire team goes over it again. So, if there's any changes that need to be made in the
1:22:06
storytelling, I'll do that and I'll adjust it. Fifth step, we are bringing on an in-house copy editor and
1:22:12
proofreader. This is not just somebody from our audience. An inhouse
1:22:18
inhouse copy editor. She is like pissing away money on this.
1:22:25
We are only hiring somebody with a lot of experience in editing. Preferably
1:22:31
somebody who has been both in self and traditional publishing. And we're going
1:22:36
through a lot of applications. I don't know if you can see this with whatever way I've cropped this on
1:22:42
screen, but the little search bar at the bottom is Audra winter artwork. Why?
1:22:49
Did Tik Tok hear me? And just change that. Artwork why?
1:22:55
Why? Why? Copy editor will also do some line edits. And after they're done with
1:23:00
that, we're going to do a one-on-one discussion and apply those changes. Step six is that formatting. So our formatter
1:23:08

Joe, he was the person who did all the formatting on the first edition of AOS, is going to go in and reput that file
1:23:15
in. So is he the one who messed up the ebook evil Joe? Do the book format. After Joe does that,
1:23:21
it will then go through another round of proofing. So, somebody that has not been involved up to this point will go
1:23:27
through and look at that brand new finalized chapter to make sure there are
1:23:33
no errors in the actual book file. And if that was not enough proofing, we are taking the entire creative team and at
1:23:40
the end of all the finalization, we're going to go through it and check one last time if there are any errors at
1:23:45
all. You heard me mention in the last I have a lot of questions about this uh
1:23:50
process because like why are you taking a chapter by chapter? Like obviously you
1:23:57
need to write chapter by chapter. They don't necessarily have to be in order. I've seen some people write their
1:24:02
chapters like they know what scenes they want to get to and then they fill in the middle. I don't do that. I do chapter by
1:24:07
chapter. Um but with editing like
1:24:13
Okay. So, I was doing some editing two weeks ago or a week ago. Two weeks ago,
1:24:19
doesn't matter. I was doing some editing a while ago and I was fixing some stuff
1:24:24
in one of the later chapters, but because I changed something in the later chapters, I needed to subtly change
1:24:31
something else that was in chapter, I think three or four, right? You can't just go chapter by chapter cuz it's a
1:24:38
whole book. The whole arc makes a difference. If you like change something, maybe a character comes to a
1:24:44
realization later on or you include some detail or you want to foreshadow
1:24:49
something that you've added in or like change the arc subtly, you need to look

1:24:55
at the whole overall picture. But it seems like what she's planning on doing is going chapter by chapter and
1:25:02
formatting each chapter individually. So being like, "Okay, that's done now."
1:25:07
that you can't you can't because you need to go back and change stuff and you
1:25:13
also can't look at it just chapter by chapter because you need to look at the whole book and go okay is it working because on Patreon now we'll look at
1:25:19
that in a bit she's now uploading the revised chapters um I actually went and
1:25:26
I rewrote chapter 1 in my style it was just a writing exercise for me but so
1:25:31
she's rewritten chapter 1 she put that on Patreon it's definitely a lot better
1:25:36
than the original chapter 1, but it's still the exact same thing. Whereas, I feel like she needs to be looking at it
1:25:43
as a whole and being like, okay, does the actual arc of this story make sense? Because I would argue, now she doesn't
1:25:48
have to take my advice. Again, I'm not published yet. I'm not her editor, but in my opinion, the chapter where she
1:25:55
starts the the story shouldn't be the start of the story. I don't think it works. But if you're going chapter by
1:26:02
chapter, you're not looking at the overall, does this work? Does that make sense? Do you get what I'm trying to
1:26:08
say? Let me know in the comments if you get what I'm trying to say. Thanks. video that there would be some changes
1:26:13
in the artistic content in the book itself. And that is because that core
1:26:18
team of people that help with feedback and making that outline, while I am
1:26:23
revising and while the copy editor is editing, those people love doing the art for this thing. So they're just going to
1:26:29
go in and do some really cool things that involve artistic storytelling along with literaturebased narrative. So we're
1:26:36

incorporating elements such as different like page borders. And we're doing that because there are scenes in the book
1:26:43
where like it's a recollection of a memory. And so making that obvious by like art and outlining the page is going
1:26:49
to be okay. It should be obvious in the writing. Like I'm not saying you can't have your nice page borders. That's a
1:26:55
nice to have. There are books that do this um that have like different art
1:27:00
stuff going on in the books, but it should be obvious without the artwork.
1:27:05
Like if you're writing a novel, the novel needs to speak for itself without the artwork. And then the artwork is
1:27:12
like an added bonus for the person who bought the book. You know, we're basically approaching this in the most
1:27:17
artistic and creative way that we can between how can we best revise this book based upon what it needs, what do we
1:27:24
need for this book, what have we heard from people, and then what can we do to make it extra special and make that
1:27:31
storytelling really shine as a team. And so that is how I built that eightstep
1:27:36
revision process. We are completely discontinuing print on demand. So you will not be able to find this book on
1:27:42
like Amazon or Barnes & Noble anymore. And that is because
1:27:47
when we distribute the books and buy them from the printers, that profit goes directly back into our studio. So for
1:27:54
those of you that have been wondering like how in the world did I pull this all off, I acted in the same way a
1:27:59
publisher would. So I did a lot of research on who do publishers use to print their books, how did they
1:28:05
distribute their books, and so I found a method on the Tik Tok shop of distributing them myself. We buy the
1:28:13
books in bulk. So, we buy big shipments of like 5,500 books. Unlike an author

1:28:18
who has published like print on demand, we retain almost all of our profit from
1:28:23
that book and it goes directly back to my team. So, the folks that are working
1:28:29
on this with me get royalties. We're taking our time on this next one. We're using the whole creative team, bringing
1:28:36
on those in-house editors. So, we're incorporating everything that we built up to this point into improving the
1:28:42
book. Super excited to share those revised chapters with you guys as we go and really show people the process that
1:28:49
we're taking and how to involve a lot of creative minds in the publication of a book and in the building of a larger
1:28:56
series that will turn multimedia. A larger series that will turn multimedia.
1:29:01
We're going to be posting these revised chapters on our Patreon for free, open to the public. Obviously, not all of
1:29:08
them in the book. that would not be a wise decision, but enough of them to help to rebuild trust in our audience
1:29:15
because I I screwed up and I I know. I'm sorry. Thank you if you made it this far. I appreciate the support and the
1:29:22
feedback from everybody up to this point. Really excited to continue sharing this
1:29:29
world with you and the best way that we can. So, welcome to the world of Guardian. You don't need an artist to draw a scene
1:29:35
for you to describe. You need to learn how to do that description on your own. You cannot experiment with form and
1:29:41
artistic integration until you actually learn how to write. And this would be my argument as well because you can so have
1:29:47
those things in a book. Beautiful. Lovely. Love that for you. But you first need to learn how to write.
1:29:54
You need to understand how to make your writing speak for itself. Writing is not an easy thing to do. It's not something
1:30:00

you can just like pick up a pen and I mean you can. It's just not going to be any good. Like there is an art form to
1:30:06
it. There's stuff you got to learn. There's so much you got to know. I mean, like I've written so many books over the
1:30:12
years. And I think the first book I ever wrote, I didn't bother to learn anything about the art of writing a novel.
1:30:18
Anything I'd written up until then was a short story in like school and stuff or for myself. And so I knew how to write a
1:30:24
good short story. Definitely knew how to write a good short story. But writing a novel, hadn't a clue. Didn't bother to
1:30:31
learn. Was the book any good? No. Did it make any sense? No. Did it have
1:30:38
like a proper structure? No, it did not. It was really bad. If
1:30:45
any of you are wondering, it was supposed to be a thriller. It was about a psychiatrist who is the main character
1:30:51
who slowly loses her mind. And yeah, that concept sounds good, but I didn't execute it well. And uh also, it I don't
1:30:58
think it read like either, even though that was all I was reading at the time. Somebody else said, "Doing everything, every side quest instead of just sitting
1:31:05
down and writing." Another person saying, "It's like I'm attending a corporate meeting." Somebody else saying, "I girl, take a breather. Stop
1:31:12
with the art every page. Stop revising the book, art, cover, end pages, etc., and start revising the writing. You
1:31:18
shouldn't need a drawing of a character you described to be able to write that character. That doesn't even make sense.
1:31:27
It's giving. If you if you know, you know. You know. Anyway, after this she started doing
1:31:34
like a actually there was another video. I missed it in the timeline because it was pinned. This video came up as well.
1:31:41
My name is Audrey Winter. I am the author of this book. It was released
1:31:46
about a month ago and I have lived through the worst week of

1:31:52
my life because of it in the past week. And I just wanted to come on here and
1:31:58
talk about it um and be genuine and express the things that I have been
1:32:04
through in the past week because I'm literally living through my worst nightmare and my biggest heartbreak. If
1:32:11
you're not familiar, I have spent a very long time um working on this world that
1:32:17
I started building when I was 12 and I'm 22 now. And throughout that time, it is the only
1:32:25
thing that has stayed consistent in my life. It is the only thing that I have been able to lean on every single night
1:32:32
and say, "Hey, at the end of the day, I have this and I have these stories. And
1:32:37
even if nobody else in the world likes it, I do. Um, and I like telling these stories. Now, I hope that other people
1:32:45
will like it. And I would love for it to bring the same joy to other people that
1:32:50
it brought to me." And it means a lot to me. This is um not just a hobby. It is a
1:32:56
passion. It is quite literally my entire life now. As in right now I'm sitting I'm so sorry. I kind of zoned out for a
1:33:03
second there. And it's not because of her. It's because she said it's not just a hobby. And then the radio version of
1:33:10
gnarly got stuck in my head or they're like what is what is the radio version? Hottie hottie. This ain't just a hobby.
1:33:17
I'm legit. And now that's playing in my head over and over again. Let's focus on Aldra. In my room, um, that is my bed
1:33:25
next to me where I sleep. And right outside of there is my office. This is my desk that I write at. I have
1:33:33
no escape from this. And I don't need an escape from it because it does matter to
1:33:38
me this much. This has been the thing in this world and these stories that when I
1:33:43
have gone through the worst parts of my life, I could look over and say,
1:33:49

well, I have this and I have this world and I can't die yet before I publish
1:33:57
this and before other people can see it because I've worked on it this much. I would really like other people to enjoy
1:34:03
it. I would like other people to share this world that has saved my life. It is
1:34:08
bizarre um to see your will to live come alive in front of your eyes. And I started to see that back in April uh
1:34:16
when I put up a pre-order listing for this book. Did not think I would sell more than 100 copies quite honestly. And
1:34:21
once again, I posted that pre-order listing and it took off. I didn't know what to do. I was shocked. At this time,
1:34:29
I had started to build like a team of artists, but it was informal at first because I was like, well, all these
1:34:34
people are working on different things for this series, and I might as well put them in one group. And that is what I
1:34:40
ended up doing with all the money that came in from this book. I ended up
1:34:46
creating a studio, a whole creative studio with this because I decided that
1:34:53
I rather the artists that I had brought together and the artists that I saw that
1:34:58
were bonding over these stories that I had created, people who were falling in love with this world and with these
1:35:04
characters as much as I did in the very beginning. And I thought that was beautiful. I had for the first time a
1:35:10
sense of understanding. Um, I've kind of gone my entire life having this as such a core fundamental part of me. And to be
1:35:17
able to finally be recognized and let this become who I am was incredible.
1:35:22
Even like getting on TikTok and talking about it, a lot of times I get a lot of comments that are like, "How did you
1:35:28
market it like this?" And my genuine answer to that is I don't know. I get on here and I talk about what I've done to
1:35:35

get to this point and the different things that I love about it. It carried me far enough to get that many sales and
1:35:41
to get that many and and I had this this sense of understanding
1:35:48
that I had never felt in my life before. And it was moving. It was shocking. It
1:35:53
was moving. It was the amount of emotions that I was just thrown into and a short period of time
1:36:01
from the time that I listed that pre-order and the time that I established an LLC was 2 weeks. All of a
1:36:09
sudden, I was going into attorneys and I was like, "What do I do?" Like, I was not expecting this to happen. And I
1:36:15
think I want to build a business off of this. Like, I want to keep being an entrepreneur. I want to put everything that I have now that I have this. Let's
1:36:22
put it into this because this is what I want to live the rest of my life around. I ended up she's about to use this as an
1:36:30
excuse, right, of like she was so confused and she didn't know what to do. Like she went straight into forming an
1:36:37
LLC. You didn't have to do that though. You didn't have to do that. You could
1:36:44
have published the book, worked on publishing it. hopefully it turned out well and then you know once it was out
1:36:51
there in the world then you can look at the business aspect of things but you did there's no reason that you had to do
1:36:57
that you could have just been a a soul trader sle proprietor whatever you know
1:37:03
like there is no reason that you have to go okay well I have to make a business now because I got so many pre-orders no
1:37:09
you don't you can just take that success and roll with that in
1:37:14
late June early July packing and shipping and signing 5,000
1:37:20
books with a very small team, literally with my parents and three other people. Sarah, if you're watching this, I really
1:37:26

appreciate you. In the last month, have experienced more fear than I ever have in my entire life. That fear, I mean,
1:37:33
surrounded the fact that I had put every single thing in me into this book. Every
1:37:40
single thing. And it is terrifying to ship 5,000 of these out to that many
1:37:46
people at once, all receiving this of this highly anticipated, talked about thing. Up to this point, I wrote
1:37:52
multiple books. I had beta readers. I was in critique groups. I have completed a creative writing minor. I've attended
1:37:58
conferences. I have written every single day since I was 12. I had been contracted by a literary agent and
1:38:03
worked with developmental editors there. I made the choice to go independent with my literary agent, dropped all their
1:38:09
sci-fi, fantasy writers. I could have found a new agent, but I was ready to share my story. I then hired two skilled
1:38:15
industry editors, both developmental and copy. I listened. I spent hours revising
1:38:20
and changing. I wrote pages upon pages of changes from editorial notes. I got on a call with my editor. I discussed
1:38:27
them. I changed more. I looked at and incorporated my copy editor suggestions. I paid two proof readers. I proof read.
1:38:34
I had a team that loved it, that understood. I marketed that I wanted to
1:38:39
break away from the industry I felt trapped under. I wrote different. I wrote to tell a story. I wrote as an art. And I tried my very best to convey
1:38:46
to readers that I knew my writing was different. It's a difference though between
1:38:52
different and not well written. Unfortunately, like there are so many
1:38:58
amazing books that are written differently and like you could even say they're they're odd. They're odd.
1:39:03
They're quirky, but they're still readable and they're still enjoyable and
1:39:08
they're still good and they still make sense. Into this book, every single thing. And

1:39:14
it is terrifying to ship 5,000 of these out to that many people at once, all
1:39:20
receiving this of this highly anticipated, talked about thing. I've been on TikTok since 2018. I was there
1:39:27
for hit or miss. I I know that a lot of times, especially with like certain
1:39:32
medias and creative avenues, it takes one negative video to spin it out of
1:39:39
control. I actually had to go back to Kansas because I was becoming so unhealthy. I wasn't eating. And quite
1:39:46
honestly, I'm still not. I had to go back to my parents because they were concerned about me. Everybody else was
1:39:52
concerned about me because everybody in my personal circle knows that this is like everything to me. A couple days
1:39:59
ago, I was up early and I was scrolling through my
1:40:04
for you page. I unfortunately came across a video of another author talking
1:40:10
about me. I felt something change in me that moment. The amount of like heart dropping that I felt while watching that
1:40:17
video will stick with me forever. And I open these comments and there's tons of people all going, I was worried about
1:40:23
this video was about me until you said these numbers. I just sat there for a little bit and went,
1:40:30
"How can you say that you were worried that it would be you and then proceed to
1:40:37
turn around and say that about another author?" When I saw that video, I closed out the app and I went to my studio
1:40:43
space and I said I said, "I'm fucked." Up until this point, I had very positive
1:40:49
reader reception. I was staying aware of what people were saying and it was way
1:40:55
more positive than negative. But when I saw this video and I saw the things that were being said, I knew and literally
1:41:03
within hours I was getting dozens, like dozens of comments
1:41:09

with pure hatred. literally hearing some of if you're missing the point here, she's
1:41:15
attributing all the negative reviews to one Tik Tok video somebody made. And mind you, one Tik Tok video somebody
1:41:21
made where they didn't even name her. What she's saying is that all, not all, but most of the reviews were positive.
1:41:29
Then somebody made a video talking about a book that wasn't good. Didn't name her. Didn't name the book. And then all
1:41:34
of a sudden, people started leaving negative reviews. And I'm going to call [__] on this. Now, originally, I
1:41:42
will admit, when I watched this video, I just took this at face value. Like, she seems so upset, and she is so upset.
1:41:48
Like, this is an upsetting situation. I just felt really bad for her. When I originally watched this, I felt bad for
1:41:53
her. But after seeing more people point out the fact that no, the reviews weren't mostly positive before one
1:42:01
person made a video, that the reviews were mostly negative from the get- go. and seeing her trying to just blame one
1:42:07
person rather than just admitting that the book isn't good. It's infuriating.
1:42:12
It's infuriating and it's just not the case in my opinion. The hardest things that I've ever been
1:42:19
told in my life. Hearing from lots of people that you're a bad writer. Hearing from lots of people with no other
1:42:29
thoughts other than saying that it reads like it was written by a 12-year-old. That it reads like it was middle school.
1:42:36
That surely I was being a scam and I was doing this to
1:42:41
scam people. It was the worst thing they ever read. I don't even want to say some of the things that I had heard. And I
1:42:47
was getting harassed by certain people that were going on to every single one of my videos and commenting these like
1:42:53
nasty like really concerning nasty things that were not constructive

1:42:59
criticism. Here I am being told by dozens of people um all at once
1:43:08
the hardest things that I have ever heard in my life. like the biggest fears that I have, things that impacted me
1:43:16
so much. I didn't know what to do. I turned to my team and I was like, I I'm carrying all these people, these 20
1:43:23
people that I have hired as contractors and employees, and I've failed them. I did something wrong. At first, it was
1:43:30
like I can't tell what I did wrong because I felt like I had done everything right up to that point. I had hired editors. I had done everything
1:43:36
that I could to my best ability because I am one person. I
1:43:42
have never been at a mental low than I have this past week. People commenting things like, "You're saying this is
1:43:49
affecting your safety." To which my answer is, it was affecting my safety. It literally felt like I was
1:43:57
being crushed by the world. I have never experienced heartbreak to that level. I have never experienced fear to that
1:44:03
level. What do I do? Like, how do I respond to these people who are being like obviously aggressive? Because if I
1:44:10
delete comments, people are going to get mad at me. If I block people, people are going to get mad at me. So, how do I deal with being harassed? I'm still
1:44:16
unhealthy from this. I I'm still living in fear. Barely eaten anything in the past like 5 days because this does mean
1:44:23
this much to me. The word I do think at this point, I don't want this to sound harsh. I
1:44:29
genuinely mean this like this is not a case for Tik Tok in that situation. like
1:44:34
you need to get actual help. If it is affecting you so badly that you're like
1:44:40
horrifically stressed, you can't eat, it's affecting your health, it's affecting your sleep, you need to get help, you shouldn't be on TikTok. And
1:44:47
also, it's not necessarily fair to put that on other people. I'm not suggesting that's what she's trying to do, but that

1:44:54
is sort of what ends up happening when you say, "Well, this book did badly and now I'm not eating." Again, it kind of
1:45:01
puts that guilt onto everybody who said they didn't like the book, whether that's what she's trying to do or not.
1:45:06
What she really needs is help. And I don't want her to feel this way. Obviously, just because the book was bad doesn't mean she shouldn't be able to
1:45:12
eat, right? Like, I want her to be okay. But she needs to get help for that to
1:45:18
happen because people on TikTok are not going to be able to fix that for her. That is a situation for a mental health
1:45:23
professional. And I mean that so genuinely. First thing that I can be told is
1:45:31
it's a scam. It's a market. It's a market tactic and it's all just
1:45:36
she got you all. There is something that cannot be more painful than knowing
1:45:42
that you did everything that you possibly could
1:45:48
and still not being good enough. I had that sense of understanding and it slipped away from my fingers in a matter
1:45:53
of hours. I couldn't handle it. I I don't even know how to express this as
1:45:58
to how much this impacted me. And I'm sure that I'll get comments on this video of like, you're too
1:46:04
sensitive. You need to back away from your craft. And that's not what it's about for me. I can't. I have never been
1:46:11
able to in my life because I love this project and I love these
1:46:16
people that I have hired as employees, but really these are people that I talk to every single day and bond with and
1:46:24
have fun with these characters and these, you know, and building this
1:46:29
much bigger project better than anything I ever could have imagined where I felt seen and I felt heard and
1:46:36

there's people working on this with me and that's all I've ever wanted for a very long time. And so also the terror
1:46:42
of am I going to lose this all? Especially when you are constantly getting comments that are like it stops
1:46:48
here. You're done. Like you're not recovering from this. For a little bit, I thought that was true. It felt like
1:46:53
the world was crushing me and that there was absolutely nothing I could do and it was the end of the line. And I couldn't
1:47:00
see my life going back without this and without these things. I picked myself
1:47:05
back up and I said, I'm doing everything that I can [__]
1:47:11
possibly can to pull out of this because I love the story and I love what I have
1:47:17
created. I love the inspiration that I've given to people. I'm going to make it right. I think I have lived through
1:47:23
the worst fear that I have had in my throughout my entire life for like half my life. I've lived through it and I'm
1:47:29
done. I've had this experience and now I can move on. Now I can get up and I can
1:47:35
go back at it stronger and I can rebrand and do all these things and go at it
1:47:41
with as much passion as I possibly can. Literally created concerning to me personally that she
1:47:48
says I can rebrand. Like I know she's just talking here and sometimes you just say things like I'm
1:47:54
not going to pick up on every single word that she's saying. Maybe it was just the thing she said. But if your focus is on rebranding rather than and I
1:48:02
can now make the book good, that's kind of a problem because the focus here needs to be on the writing. This like
1:48:09
entire company and creative studio around this like as the start. So I said,
1:48:16
you know what? We're going to go for it. We're all going to start working on this and we're already all building like the
1:48:21
rest of the series together. Let's go back and do it again. trying to do

1:48:27
every single thing we can right and from this point on I've also learned some personal lessons I had responded to
1:48:34
people and been like no I have editors like I have hired these people I have
1:48:39
done these things why is this information being like spread about me
1:48:44
or people who were going after very specific things that I had done intentionally in the book and me going
1:48:52
well this is what I meant with it and the smallest things
1:48:58
impacted everything. Everything. And so I've learned now that I can't go into my comment sections. It's not easy working
1:49:05
the job that I do. And I adore what I do. I could do it. I do it literally all
1:49:10
day, all night. Like I'm in my bed like on my studio. I'm out there packing and
1:49:18
shipping things. My animal, for God's sake, both of them have like constellation colors. Like that is that
1:49:23
is where we are at like everything in my life revolves around this because it's my special interest and I'm neurode
1:49:28
divergent. This has been my thing my entire life. This is my entire branding as a as a human with that passion and
1:49:34
with the drive that I have to keep going to not give up on this because I don't want to give up on my life. I've learned
1:49:41
a very important lesson and that's that it will happen no matter what. But I've been through it now. I've
1:49:47
had some the worst things that people have told me. I've had some really wonderful words that people have told me
1:49:52
is just to give a little bit perspective of who I am as a person and what this
1:49:59
genuinely means to me. And I hope this can shed some light on what it is truly
1:50:05
like to be in this situation. Even though it's wonderful having all of this come in and all for those of you who
1:50:12

keep theorizing as to how I started a whole creative team, no, I'm not an industry plant and no, I'm not a
1:50:18
grifter. I took the money I made from pre-sales and put it back into what I love the most. Six-figure business means
1:50:24
six figures of revenue are going into it. I don't have hundreds of thousands of dollars I'm holding on to. I have a
1:50:30
team of international employees and contractors. I'm paying books. I'm ordering shipping supplies and an office
1:50:36
space. All I care about is to be able to keep doing this, which again to me is a
1:50:41
red flag because what you should care about is the writing of the book. if what you want is to be a writer, which
1:50:47
is one of the reasons why I say she doesn't really care about being a writer. She cares about this world and being a businesswoman.
1:50:53
This happen. I've also allocated all of it back into
1:50:58
my company. Like I pay a lot of my employees more than I do myself because this is once again what matters to me.
1:51:04
I'm going to keep doing this as much as I can. As long as I can survive, I'm okay. I'll I'll I'll sacrifice
1:51:10
everything that I need to order to just give my stories to other people. People don't see the toll that that takes on
1:51:16
somebody and the toll and the stress and being an artist
1:51:23
is a very strange thing in this day and age. Being both an artist and an influencer so I can be an artist. I'm
1:51:29
going to wrap it up. Thank you if you made it this far. Thank you for kind words. Thank you for all of those that
1:51:35
have supported me along the way and very encouraging things that I have heard.
1:51:40
There are so many people and seeing so many of people waiting for me to get back up that gave me hope. There's
1:51:46

people out there that are recognizing like how much heartbreak this has caused and how much devastation in my life it
1:51:52
has caused. But I I would not be able to do it without the team that I have um
1:51:58
without the artists that I bond with, without the people that have stayed with me throughout all of this and been like, "No, we're here for you." And that
1:52:04
itself is a reason to fight. fighting to give other artists a voice and to allow
1:52:10
them to also live their dream and to give others hope. I want to continue
1:52:15
doing that and I'm going to I would die before I gave up on this thing. I hope
1:52:21
that at least shines some light on like what this all has done to me and how
1:52:28
one person, one video, one video can impact someone, especially
1:52:34
an artist and a creative. See, she's going back again to blaming this one video that one random person
1:52:40
made where she wasn't even named for her entire downfall rather than it being the
1:52:46
book that she wrote not being good. And the thing is, even when it
1:52:51
originally came out, people were still rooting for her to just fix it. Just fix the writing. Take as much time as you need. Just go and fix the writing.
1:52:58
But she can't seem to do that. I mean, she is like fixing some of the writing, and it is better, but I I just don't
1:53:05
know if it's good enough to be what she's hoping it to be. As authors, we should be doing better to
1:53:12
support each other. We should be lifting each other up. We should be speaking up for each other. um in this time where AI
1:53:20
is replacing a lot of our jobs and with artists and we're not we're becoming
1:53:26
competitors because of this market that we have been forced into. Publishers that are quite literally their companies
1:53:33
controlling how books are distributed, controlling every single thing about being an author. The way we fight it is
1:53:42

not as indie authors bringing other indie authors down. It is lifting each other up. There is a lot of potential
1:53:48
out there and a lot of authors and a lot of readers and a lot of people who have hope in this day and age. So speak up.
1:53:55
Act like an artist. You are allied. Authors are artists and we have lost
1:54:00
sense of that. We have diverged away from that into this is a job and an
1:54:06
occupation in a market. So start becoming an artist again. Keep pushing because even if something is your will
1:54:12
to live and the worst thing happens to it, you can still get back up. I'm not
1:54:17
dying yet. I'm not dead yet. And I am not going to give up on it either. So,
1:54:23
thank you for listening and I hope you have a great day. Welcome to the world of Guardian. My name is
1:54:29
So, like I said, when I originally watched this, I just felt bad for her. I just felt really sad about the whole
1:54:35
situation. I took everything she said at face value and I just felt for her. At
1:54:40
this point, I'm a little bit jaded given everything that happens after this. Uh, but let's take a look at some of the
1:54:47
comments. Of course, can we please normalize getting to the
1:54:52
point? Let the woman speak. Someone said you should consider a graphic novel, and I think that might be a good pivot
1:54:58
because many people mentioned the white room issue with the storytelling. Again, I've given my thoughts on that. Based on
1:55:04
how long this took to get to the point, I can only imagine what the writing in the book is like. I've never seen an author repeatedly say my company and my
1:55:11
employees when talking about their books, especially when talking about how they're passionate about writing. My day
1:55:16
job is in the corporate world, and this just felt like a team meeting. If you need that many artists, maybe it should
1:55:21

be a graphic novel because the rewrite doesn't need any artists or new art. The rewrite needs you, the author, some
1:55:28
editors, proof readers, beta readers, etc. but not artists. Can we normalize
1:55:33
accepting that when maybe we aren't the you had you you could you do you you want you you could do so.
1:55:39
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Can we normalize me speaking? Dear God, can we normalize
1:55:44
accepting when maybe we aren't cut out for everything we want to do? Cuz um maybe just record and listen to it alone
1:55:50
at night since you enjoy it. Audra, honestly, you shouldn't have published the book if it's so deeply entangled
1:55:56
with your mental health. Because obviously, as you've said, the criticism was hurt you immensely. Maybe this
1:56:02
should have been a project you kept to yourself. Essentially, to say critics are messing with your mental health is a
1:56:08
bit unfair as it shifts the blame to your readers who are entitled to their claims considering they paid actual
1:56:14
money, which in this economy is hard to come upon. No, of course you're a human being and entitled to your own emotions,
1:56:20
but I think it's just my opinion that if you're going to publish a book and people are using their money, surely
1:56:26
they are entitled to share their thoughts on said book, good or bad. From what I've seen, most of the critics have
1:56:32
been quite supportive. Obviously, there will be a few individuals who are rude, but the majority have given you the
1:56:37
benefit of the doubt that you're a young person and that this can be a learning curve. Ultimately, I hope you get
1:56:43
better. And that is that's pretty much what I was saying too. Sorry, I've been sitting here for a long time and I start
1:56:48
I needed I needed to lean. Okay, I've been recording for longer than I think I've recorded any video ever, which was

1:56:55
not my intention. And this has been going on so long that the sun is setting and my voice is going. I already had to
1:57:02
pause once because my camera overheated because I'm recording for so long. So,
1:57:08
I'm going to finish the rest of this in the morning cuz I think I still have a lot to say. So, if in the morning I look
1:57:16
a mess when I record, forgive me. It's because I want to spend my time actually recording the video instead of getting
1:57:21
ready ready to record the video. Just like Audrey should be spending her time writing the book instead of getting
1:57:26
people to draw art of the book. See you in the morning. Many unbearable hours later.
1:57:33
Good Morgan. So, let's pick up where we left off. So after this, we got her first weekly FAQ, which was just a text
1:57:40
post, but it's got some really important information. So we are going to read through that. First question is, what's
1:57:46
going on with the limited edition paperback pre-order? The only change to the limited edition paperback pre-order
1:57:52
will be its release date push back to spring 2026, aiming for March to April,
1:57:57
which is already way better than December. Maybe still too soon for the
1:58:03
level of edits that need to be done, but not impossible. Definitely better than December. So, it content is updated to
1:58:10
the second revised/expanded edition. All the features in the listing, cover, interior art, sprayed
1:58:17
edges remain the same. We have totally discontinued the first edition Age of Scorpius so we can deliver the best
1:58:24
story possible to our readers. If you're one of the 2,000 folks who have already pre-ordered the limited edition
1:58:30
paperback, reach out to us via a message to our Tik Tok shop if you'd like to update your address or cancel the order
1:58:37
due to the delay into spring 2026.

1:58:42
2,000 people. Why? Why are two thou? I can't I mean, spend
1:58:50
your money however you want, but why are 2,000 people pre-ordering this? It
1:58:55
doesn't make any sense to me because I believe, if I'm not wrong, at this stage, she still hadn't uploaded any of
1:59:03
the revised stuff to Patreon. So, this is the same situation again where people are pre-ordering without seeing
1:59:09
anything, but this time they know that the first version was terrible. So, why
1:59:15
why why would we do this? Moving on to the second question. I've never heard of an author having employees and
1:59:21
contractors. Where'd you get all the money for that? Good question. I'd never
1:59:26
heard of it before either. My approach is, as far as I know, atypical in this industry. When I first hired artists for
1:59:33
the book, I used a combination of my personal savings from my job and a scholarship for my university. I
1:59:39
desperately need somebody to explain this to me in the comments. In America, do scholarships work differently?
1:59:45
Because my understanding of a scholarship is that it just means you get like your tuition paid.
1:59:51
And how would you get money from that? I've tried looking this up. But I can't find the info. I don't know if I'm just googling it terribly or something. After
1:59:58
that, pre-order sales took off and I decided to reinvest all that revenue back into the project. That means two
2:00:04
things. One, we are our own distributor. I ordered the books in bulk from a printer in Canada. And once I received
2:00:10
them, we pack and ship them ourselves. While it's an immense amount of labor, it does keep a much larger portion of
2:00:17
the profit than we would if we went exclusively through a print on demand service such as KDP, Ingram Spark, or
2:00:23
Barnes & Noble Press, which yeah, they take insanely big cuts, like huge. That

2:00:30
profit gets put back into the project by two hiring on the creative team. AOS has an art creative team working on it
2:00:37
that's much larger than most book series get. It's such a a lovely thing to do if you
2:00:43
can, but I just personally believe this is not the smartest business decision. You don't know how the next book is
2:00:50
going to go and like yes, reinvest that money back into your art and stuff, but
2:00:55
you need to keep some money for like the second release cuz what if you don't make any extra money and you still need to hire editors and, you know, get some
2:01:03
art done if that's what you want? Hiring a whole team just seems unnecessary and
2:01:09
like a bad business decision, especially off of the first book, but
2:01:14
I I'm not a businesswoman, so I can't tell you for sure. I believe in the power of creative people coming together
2:01:20
to build what we love. And we aim to make our company a manifestation of that. When you buy a book from us, the
2:01:26
money goes to us and our eco-friendly printer. That's it. No big cut to a large company like Amazon. I mean,
2:01:31
that's great. You don't necessarily need a whole team of artists for that. Like
2:01:38
obviously if you want art, hire artists, but you don't need a whole what it sounds like
2:01:46
full-time team. Now that's just an assumption, but next question. Are you following the rules with Tik Tok's toos
2:01:53
for your pre-orders? Now, you're going to need a little bit of context for this because she is taking her pre-orders
2:01:59
through Tik Tok shop, which is something I did not know existed until this situation happened. I'd heard people say
2:02:06
Tik Tok shop before, but for some reason, my brain is stupid and I just thought that meant that people were like
2:02:12
linking to products uh just in their bio or whatever. No, it's a whole thing
2:02:18

where you can shop on Tik Tok. Um, so she's doing it there. Now, there are some different terms of service on Tik
2:02:25
Tok shop. One of those being that you have to ship out the orders within a certain amount of time. So, to get
2:02:31
around that, Audra is taking the pre-orders, but she's shipping bookmarks
2:02:37
to everybody as soon as the order is made. So therefore, she can mark it as
2:02:42
fulfilled for Tik Tok shop, but still send the actual book, which is what
2:02:47
people wanted, not the bookmark, much later when the book is out. So people were questioning whether this was a
2:02:54
violation of Tik Tok's terms of service and if based on that they would be able to get refunded or some people even
2:03:00
suggesting that she could get in huge trouble for this. So Audra's response is yes. We have been careful to ensure that
2:03:06
all our listings clearly state that they are pre-orders in the name, description, and images. We will explicitly outline
2:03:13
that we send a preackage with a bookmark, print, and note for seller fulfillment. As I said, once the book is
2:03:20
printed, the book is sent in a separate package. I'm not the first or only author selling on Tik Tok to use this
2:03:26
method. See DA White writes, Ty Turner's books, and more. books by Ora Dyn
2:03:32
Juliana blah blah blah blah blah lots of people listings on the Tik Tok shop must be manually approved by Tik Tok before
2:03:39
going public and ours have been approved multiple times. The Tik Tok shop's official pre-order feature where the
2:03:45
60-day rule applies is currently only available to select sellers, not including us. This is a different
2:03:51
listing option built in the Tik Tok shop and does not allow us to send our prepackaged bubble mailer with a
2:03:58

bookmark note and print. So, she's claiming that because it's been approved by Tik Tok, it is okay with the toos. I
2:04:06
cannot confirm or deny. I do not work for Tik Tok. Shocking information, I
2:04:11
know. The next question on this is, do you delete comments and reviews on Tik Tok? She says, "I don't look at my
2:04:17
comments past the first 10 to 20 minutes of a new post because of the amount of traction I have right now. The only
2:04:23
comments I delete contain personal information about me or my teen, which is fair enough, I would say. If you
2:04:29
posted a comment that doesn't contain that and it gets deleted, it was likely flagged by Tik Tok's anti-bullying
2:04:34
protections. Those controlled by an algorithm, so sometimes it flags comments it shouldn't and doesn't flag
2:04:40
comments it should. Sellers on the Tik Tok shop do not have the power to delete reviews. I understand there is also
2:04:46
concern that our pre-order process has the intent to create false positive reviews due to the 60-day limitation,
2:04:53
sorry, limit on reviewing a product after delivery, which begins after the
2:04:58
delivery of the bookmark package, not the actual book. I have three responses to this. One, this was absolutely never
2:05:06
my intention, but I can understand how it looks shady. Two, customers are able to edit their review at any time once
2:05:12
submitted, and several people did so, reviewing the book's content once it arrived. I had a listing that wasn't a
2:05:18
pre-order. The misprints of the first edition AOS, now sold out, had a 4.8 star rating with 10 reviews, several of
2:05:25
them mentioning the story. Ultimately, my goal is not to prevent people from giving honest feedback. Listening to
2:05:31
that very feedback that has led me to making the revised edition. Now, I would say, right, this is all well and good.

2:05:37
I'm glad people can edit their reviews, but this goes with the assumption that somebody is going to get the bookmark and think to themselves, "Oh, I better
2:05:44
review the bookmark so that when the book gets here, I can edit my review." Most people aren't going to do that. So,
2:05:50
it is like it probably wasn't intentional on her part. I believe her there, but it it definitely isn't a case
2:05:56
of like, well, everyone's just going to be able to review it anyway because if they didn't make a review when they got
2:06:02
the bookmark, they won't be able to make that later on. they can only edit a a
2:06:07
review they already did. So, somebody asked, "Why did I pay $50 for this book, and this was a big gripe that people
2:06:13
had. The first edition hard cover was a discounted $27.99 book, sold at $23.99
2:06:19
for the entire duration of its pre-order period. This did not include shipping, which can vary depending on the buyer's
2:06:25
location. The price of shipping is set by the Tik Tok shop. T Whoa, that is getting harder and harder to say. I
2:06:32
imagine some folks did pay an amount closer to $50 if they live far away, Alaska or Hawaii for instance, but this
2:06:39
was not the norm. Somebody asked why' you raise the price of the second revised expanded edition hard cover,
2:06:44
which um I think was definitely a choice as I have made very clear. The revised
2:06:49
edition will cost more to print as it will have a higher page count due to extra content.
2:06:56
However, you just said that you're going to get a higher profit margin because you're not going to be using any print
2:07:01
on demand services that take a huge cut. So, you're actually like you're getting
2:07:06
all that money back. So, if the book's not actually costing
2:07:12
more at this in this case because you're printing it all yourself, so you're
2:07:17

making more money off each book. So, this is feeling like a little bit of
2:07:23
spin to me. All right. Yes, it's going to have a higher page count due to extra content, but you're
2:07:30
still making more per book cuz you're not giving a cut to Amazon or Ingram Spark or Barnes & Noble. Like,
2:07:38
it's giving spin. Okay. I'm also welcoming an experienced copy editor and proofreader into our team, and I want to
2:07:45
compensate them fairly. However, I have listened to the frustration around this decision, and I realize I need to focus
2:07:51
on reestablishing reader trust. To that end, I'm lowering the price of the second edition hard cover to $24.99.
2:07:58
Previously, $29.99. Okay. For new buyers, buyers of the
2:08:04
first edition are still eligible to pre-order the second edition at $15 with an optional free digital copy of the
2:08:12
revised second edition. Check the link tree in my bio to access these discounts. If you are one of the 25
2:08:18
people who have already purchased a revised hard cover here on Tik Tok, send us a message through Tik Tok shop and we
2:08:25
can help you out. So 25 people have ordered the revised hard cover. So that's feeling more like the numbers I
2:08:31
was expecting. Can you explain what went wrong with the first edition of Age of Scorpius? Let's see what the excuse is
2:08:39
this time. It will change again, don't worry. I've spent a lot of time reflecting on
2:08:45
this question in the past two weeks. My developmental editor said the plot was ready, but recommended a strong copy
2:08:51
edit before publication. Even though I hired a copy editor and proofers, the final phase of implementing their
2:08:58
suggestions over overlapped with the deluge wow of thousands of unexpected
2:09:03

book pre-orders. I was suddenly in a frenzy with establishing a business, setting up payroll, packing and shipping
2:09:10
thousands of bubble mailers, and adapting to the shock of my entire life being turned upside down in a matter of
2:09:16
weeks. In retrospect, I was exhausted and overwhelmed, but I felt immense pressure to deliver to all my new
2:09:22
readers. I thought I was putting my best effort into finalizing the copy at its improving, but failed to recognize the
2:09:28
external factors implementing my overall health and mindset. Unfortunately, I genuinely had no clue that this was a
2:09:35
problem until the books were in people's hands. I really do not want this to happen again, and that's why I'm
2:09:41
extending the timeline into next spring so I have time to do this revision properly.
2:09:48
This This is important because this is the only time she's pretty much in a very
2:09:55
long- winded way admitted to not properly editing the book in my opinion.
2:10:01
Right. Right, I got to be very careful here. In my opinion here, she is admitting to not properly editing the
2:10:06
book cuz what she's saying right even though I hired a copy editor and
2:10:11
proofers, the final phase of implementing their suggestions over overlapped with
2:10:18
the deluge of thousands of unexpected book pre-orders.
2:10:23
meaning she was so focused on the book pre-orders on setting up a business
2:10:30
which again as I already said nobody asked her to do that and she didn't have to do that doing all of this business
2:10:36
stuff that she didn't have to do and should have just focused on the book in my opinion that she didn't have the
2:10:41
energy the time the mental capacity to deal with the edits properly which once again in my in my mind is the most
2:10:50
important part is actually finishing the book not setting up payroll and hiring

2:10:55
employees. So, if she had just focused on the book, maybe we could have avoided this. I
2:11:02
don't know. This uh answer is going to change later, by the way. Another question. Did you scam people when you
2:11:08
crowdfunded for a service dog? I'm not going to go into this one too much. So, basically, people found her personal account, which had her real name, which
2:11:15
she doesn't want to be public or associated with a book. So, we're not going to go there. I haven't gone looking for that myself. But on this,
2:11:23
she had posted about a service dog and she had raised money to um help pay for
2:11:29
the service dog that she needed. And because of this and some other issues around it, people were suggesting that
2:11:37
this was a pattern of her scamming. Now, I don't think this is any of her business. I understand why some people
2:11:43
think that this is relevant if they do think she's a scammer. However, I don't think she's necessarily a scammer. Um,
2:11:49
and I think this is her personal life and probably shouldn't be brought into it at all. And then it just ends with,
2:11:55
"Send us your questions." So, of course, comments, guys. Comments. Hiring artists using your university scholarship. What?
2:12:02
Not taking any of the editor notes is a really odd corner to cut. I would have to agree. And here's the question on
2:12:09
everyone's mind. Why is there so much emphasis on churning out more artwork and other content unrelated to the
2:12:16
actual content of the book when everyone's complaint was that the writing style/content of the story
2:12:23
needed to be fixed, not the old art that was already included? This seems like an excuse to raise the price due to there
2:12:29
being more pages and potentially the same quality of writing, which is the main reason people are upset. So, then
2:12:36
we got another weekly update after that. Um, and this one is shorter. Have you

2:12:41
hired an editor? I found an editor outside of the fan base/book talk. Thank
2:12:47
god. Who has no involvement and no knowledge of the world of Guardian before release, which this is a good
2:12:53
thing. At least she took that feedback on board. I'll be working closely with her one-on-one for developmental copy
2:12:59
and line editing. So, she's doing everything. Just so you know, in case you're not in this world, usually not
2:13:06
always, editors will focus on one. So, you'll have a developmental editor, and that's usually what people are referring
2:13:13
to when they say like, I'm working with my editor, cuz the developmental one is the one that you need to be working with
2:13:18
really closely to work on the actual structure of the story and the characters and the the story itself. Um,
2:13:26
copy and line editing, those will be another two separate editors normally. Um, and then you get
2:13:34
like proof readers and beta readers and all of that afterwards. If you have any questions for her and how she intends to
2:13:39
approach the project, she'll be doing a Q&A. Please leave your questions in the comments below for our new editor,
2:13:45
Caitlyn, to answer next week. Next question is, you've been real quiet. You are real quiet. What's going on? Behind
2:13:52
the scenes, we've been making tons of positive changes. I spent a lot of time working on chapter 1 with the guidance
2:13:57
and knowledge from both the creative team and my new editor. I just need a few more days to really give my all to
2:14:02
pushing through and powering forward. We'll answer more questions later this week. Right now, I am placing my focus
2:14:09
and energy on editing and setting out a plan moving forward for how to best improve and strengthen my writing. Stay
2:14:15

tuned. We have some exciting updates coming this week and then ends again with send us your questions. Now, you
2:14:22
may notice that that um that Q&A with editor is not here.
2:14:30
So, that is not because it wasn't posted. just because she deleted it. Unfortunately, I did not take
2:14:36
screenshots of this at the time because I just didn't think it was going to be deleted because Audrey pretty much kept
2:14:41
everything else up. But what happened here, and I will add it in if I can find
2:14:46
the screenshots, but to summarize it for you, it was a Q&A with the editor.
2:14:52
Basically, they just ended up blaming the previous editors for everything that went wrong with the book. They were
2:14:57
like, "The editors did not give enough feedback, didn't give enough this or that." And that's why and I was shocked
2:15:04
by how bad the feedback was. So, you know, it's all their fault basically.
2:15:09
And people were not happy with that as you can see. And it's uh it's gone. So,
2:15:15
then we get to this video from Audra, the one with 71.5K
2:15:22
views. And I have to admit, I hate this video so much. You will you'll see why I
2:15:27
hate this video so much. But let's just let's just watch.
2:15:42
I believe I've been improperly introduced to you. I'm a 22-year-old entrepreneur, writer, and naturalist.
2:15:48
Some of my favorite things are wolves, ecology, my dog, the ocean, and of course, writing. You probably know me
2:15:54
from that last one. In the past month or so, I have become known for what is literally my worst nightmare. So,
2:16:01
obviously, we took some time to calm down and talk with the studio and make some plans, hire an editor.
2:16:07
So, now let me tell you exactly what my goal is, what my intentions are, and who
2:16:13

I am. I'm a full-time author and founder of a creative studio with artists from across the world, all working to develop
2:16:18
a literature-based multimedia series centered around the zodiac based fantasy world that I began developing when I was
2:16:24
12. I want my novels to be a blend of narrative pros and artistic storytelling. My chapters are written
2:16:30
out like a normal fiction book, but there are also critical parts of the story that are told by illustration. My
2:16:37
aim is to uphold artistic kinship, collaboration, imagination, and innovation. I am absolutely dedicated to
2:16:43
pioneering a new avenue of publishing that equalizes the storytelling between both writers and artists.
2:16:50
I wanted to let this play out and comment afterwards, but I have to say it drives me insane how she is calling this
2:16:56
pioneering a new form of publishing. Like this hasn't been done already. She
2:17:03
is saying that like having something that is mostly a novel but with illustrations and things that help to
2:17:10
guide the story is entirely new. It is not it's been done. You're not pioneering
2:17:18
anything. You've just clearly not done your research into this product that you're you're trying to create because
2:17:25
you are seeing it as a business. But if you want to be a business money, if you want to be a business money, I was
2:17:31
trying to say woman, you need to do your research. Like that is one of the biggest parts.
2:17:37
You need to do your market research. You got to see what's already out there, what's not. How do you actually set
2:17:43
yourself apart? Because this has been done. It's not new. It's not like super
2:17:49
common, but it does exist. And it's it's just that's a whole lot of ego and
2:17:56
ignorance to claim that you are the first one doing it. And it kind of leans into my assumption that she doesn't read

2:18:03
a lot. I'm sorry, but I'm going to I feel like I'm being mean, so I'm going to say something nice, which is that I really
2:18:10
like this haircut on her and her cat is really cute. So So how'd
2:18:16
I get here? While the short answer is a couple of scholarships, there is a much larger story to be told. When I listed the
2:18:22
pre-order for my debut novel, it instantly took off, even when I wasn't expecting to sell more than a 100 copies
2:18:28
at most. Instead of printing my books on demand, I contacted a large book printer that publishers used and ordered my
2:18:33
stock of books to independently distribute. This allowed me to retain a significant portion of the profit made from a book sale. And I did all of this
2:18:40
on a very small initial budget by preunding from the books themselves. I ended up selling thousands of copies of
2:18:46
my debut within a matter of 3 months. Prior to its formal release, The Age of Scorpius had over 7,000 pre-orders. If
2:18:54
you're wondering what I did with all that money, I turned it right back into my company. I established a creative
2:18:59
studio hiring a global team of artists of both contractors and employees aiming to further develop the series. Starting
2:19:06
in April, I was actively establishing my business in Creative Studio, managing finances, marketing, team managing,
2:19:12
revising and editing, coordinating communications, and somehow also managing to pack and ship 7,000 bubble
2:19:19
mailer prepackages for the pre-orders before the books had even arrived to me. I delivered 5,000 highly anticipated
2:19:26
brand new books to thousands of people all at once. I did everything I could to make the book the best version of itself
2:19:32
that it could be. I did everything I could besides spending the time necessary to uh implement the edits that
2:19:40

my editors suggested because I was busy setting up a business.
2:19:46
This is why indie authors use print on demand. Like so great if you have the resources to print yourself and like cut
2:19:51
out the middleman and everything, but if you can't do that and at the same
2:19:57
time write the book, then it's not the right method for you. I'm sorry. It's
2:20:02
just not like, do you see me here trying to print out all my own books and ship them myself and do everything myself?
2:20:08
No, cuz I'm already doing enough and I want to write the book. I really want to write the book. So, like that is my
2:20:15
focus. And do I take a cut from my um potential profits from that? Yeah, I I
2:20:22
don't expect to earn that much money from this. I just I want the book out and I want it to be readable and good,
2:20:28
you know, developmental and a copy editor. and I ended up spending days straight in my cafe for months on end.
2:20:34
So, what went wrong and why am I getting all this criticism? I realized a severe
2:20:39
and critical error in my book. During the process of being thrown into the position as a business owner in April
2:20:44
and May, I was also in the final copy edit and proofing stages of the book. from the amount of shock and exhaustion
2:20:50
I was going through. I failed to give that critical process my full attention and fell short without even realizing it
2:20:56
until after the I failed to give the critical process of editing my full
2:21:02
attention. Yet, I'm somehow still claiming that I did everything I possibly could to make
2:21:09
this book as good as it could be. everything I could except for editing
2:21:17
the most vital part. It's driving me insane. You see why I just began to get jaded after all this
2:21:24
time and just stop feeling sympathy because it's all very self-inflicted in my own personal opinion. Book was in
2:21:31

people's hands and this all started. If you want to know more about what exactly went wrong, we have now posted the first
2:21:38
revised chapter to Patreon for free. anybody can access it. And we've also posted the editor notes from both April
2:21:45
and May in comparison to the editor notes from our editor. Now, I've received a ton of amazing feedback. I've
2:21:52
talked about this in other videos and how we're actually incorporating it. But we have literally gone through every
2:21:59
corner of the internet and found the critique from our reader base and from the audience and put them in a document
2:22:07
and we're we're having discussions as a team. I'm having one-on-one discussions with my editor. We're incorporating
2:22:13
that. And I just wanted to say like genuinely, thank you so much for that feedback because I am looking to improve
2:22:19
as a writer and I've been given this chance to improve as a writer and I am super grateful for that and I'm super
2:22:25
grateful for the people who are willing to give us a second chance and give me a second chance as a writer. I love my
2:22:30
team. I love my team and I love what I do. It is every single thing to me. It is my entire heart and soul. 100% of my
2:22:38
time, every waking hour and minutes goes to this. So, let's try this one more
2:22:43
time. My name is Audrey Winter and welcome to the world of Guardian. See what I mean? Really good haircut on
2:22:48
her. However, um my main reason that I don't like this video
2:22:55
is that it's really, really, really, really giving pure and emotional
2:23:02
manipulation. Here, let me uh tell you and show you how hard this has been on
2:23:08
me. Let me play this really really loud sad music
2:23:14
and just see if I can make you feel bad for me and connect with me on a personal level so that hopefully that will sell

2:23:20
the books. It's that's what I'm not claiming that that was the intention, but that's what it feels like to me.
2:23:26
Anyway, that disappeared on me, but I wanted to read the comments. Talk with the studio girl. Just write the book.
2:23:31
The CEO talk from a 22-year-old self-declared prodigy is so off-putting. I have to agree. Girl, who are you
2:23:38
sending these Snapchats to? I mean, I'm sure she has friends. Let's be nice here. Entrepreneur is the red flag. I
2:23:45
have to agree. Why is the editor Q&A gone now? Let's see what people respond to this. Must have received a letter
2:23:51
from the editors that she blamed. She got a cease and desist. This is all just speculation.
2:23:58
The humble brag in the snapshot screenshots. Lol. Are you willing to accept criticism on the revised chapter? I read it and
2:24:05
have some major concerns. It is still very, very far from something ready to be published in my opinion. Maybe I'm
2:24:11
reading too much into it, but there's a little sense of irony in the fact that she introduced herself as an entrepreneur before she says writer. So,
2:24:18
here we have the Patreon that she was talking about, the World of Guardian LLC. And I have to say this is one of
2:24:25
those things that with the Tik Tok and with the Patreon and putting everything as LLC is one of the biggest red flags
2:24:31
for me because a lot of creatives are LLC's, right? Like a lot of YouTubers
2:24:38
even are LLC's. I'm not cuz I could not be ar.
2:24:46
You don't see like Jack Septic Guy changing his YouTube handle to Jack Septic Guy LLC. He might not be an LLC.
2:24:53
He might be something else. But you know what I mean? You don't see like Markiplier LLC.
2:24:58
Why are you put Nobody does that. It's really weird. And it's just really giving like, "Oh, see, I'm a business.
2:25:03

I'm an entrepreneur. That's all I really care about." Anyway, you can see uh it titles itself as a creative studio
2:25:08
developing a Zodiacbased fantasy series with 834 members. Now, there has been
2:25:15
some confusion about this because those 834 members are not paid. Most of them are free. Um, and I could see it before.
2:25:23
There you go. 834 total members and nine paid members. So, people are claiming
2:25:28
she's making bank on this, but you can pretty easily see it's only nine paid members. And I think the tiers are just
2:25:34
like $2 and a dollar. Yeah, $3 and 650. Sorry, 3 and 650 is the highest one. So,
2:25:44
you know, she's not making bank. Who we are. The World of Guardian LLC is a multimedia creative studio founded by
2:25:51
author and creator Audrey Winter. We're a team of 20 plus illustrators, musicians. Musicians?
2:25:58
Girl, what are you doing with musicians? What do you mean? What do you mean?
2:26:04
It's a book. I mean, like, I've been making music for my book, but that's because I enjoy doing that. Um, I don't
2:26:12
think I'm going to post it, but like it's fun for me. and I finished a degree
2:26:17
in um music composition for film and game. So like it's it's something I do
2:26:27
not out here hiring musicians cuz I'm like yeah this book needs musicians but this is probably because she as she has
2:26:33
said previously she wants this to be a multimedia franchise. She wants it to go into multiple things. So, she's probably
2:26:39
thinking way ahead, which Audra, I I I don't and I she should not be watching
2:26:45
this video. I mean this with the utmost sincerity. You are not a good businesswoman. You need to go take a
2:26:52
course, a class, learn about business, cuz you are making all the wrong decisions here. And I'm not claiming
2:26:58
that I'm a wonderful businesswoman. I'm not claiming to be a businesswoman. I'm definitely not. Um, but you are making

2:27:05
really horrid decisions. You don't hire the people before you do the project.
2:27:12
What are the musicians doing on your team? I'm so confused about this. Anyway,
2:27:19
musicians, animators, and designers collaborating and creating in the world of Guardian, a futuristic society on
2:27:24
Earth where zodiac based magic replaces technology. Our team aims to bring Guardian stories to life through cross
2:27:30
media artistic collaboration powered by the ground baking.
2:27:35
The groundbreaking. I just made some cookies. Maybe that's why. Success of win. The groundbreaking success of
2:27:43
Winter's debut novel, The Age of Scorpius.
2:27:51
What What are What? I don't mean to laugh. I'm genuinely
2:27:57
confused by this because I haven't read this about. I just wanted to get into some of the posts.
2:28:02
What do we what are we measuring groundbreaking success on? Like the number of pre-orders because I don't
2:28:08
think that's the only measure of success. And in my opinion, like this debut novel is a gen generational
2:28:14
failure. Like this is so bad that this video has propelled people's YouTube
2:28:20
careers from talking about her. This is a generational flop. This is not a
2:28:26
success story. It's just delusional. And I think she's using this language because she wants to portray herself in
2:28:32
that business way to, you know, potential investors. We'll get there.
2:28:38
We'll get there. I'm not I'm not pulling that out my ass. By the way, our
2:28:43
allhuman team is proudly radically anti-AI and a fully independent company established by imaginative creative
2:28:49
voices from across the world, which would be a good thing if you were in that stage of your career, but you're
2:28:55

not. You've had to pull your first book cuz it was so bad. About our Patreon. I,
2:29:01
Audra, have unleashed the entire studio team upon this page
2:29:07
like a horde of ghosts. I It's early, guys. It's really early,
2:29:13
which is probably a bit risky, but here we are. Posts may include content such as work in progress, peaks for book art,
2:29:18
concept development, and project building. Behind the scenes content from shenanigans that happen in our studio,
2:29:24
exclusive looks at canon scenes and art from the main series. This means you get content between the book releases.
2:29:30
Looking at you people who are asking me when the second book comes out a whole week after release. First look at new
2:29:37
products, merchandise, and snippets from upcoming works and plenty more. Because this team likes to create monstrosities,
2:29:47
masterpieces. When I look away, content will be specified if it is canon or not.
2:29:53
Posts may be from any of the creatives involved. This is a shared page where we continue to expand the stories of
2:29:59
Guardian into our larger multimedia project. All proceeds from Patreon are directly returned to our artists. Thank
2:30:05
you for your support and welcome to the world of Guardian. What about the musicians? Are they getting paid? So,
2:30:11
you can look uh it's lots of art stuff, world building, post delay, announcing
2:30:19
the $2 tier comment policy. Now, this was one that annoyed a few people, so we're going to read this
2:30:25
comment policy. Hello everyone, Elrose here. After much internal discussion, we've decided on a new rule. We'll no
2:30:32
longer be accepting critiques on this page. We have heard a great deal of feedback from readers both here and on
2:30:37
social media. Some has been respectful and appreciated and appreciated, some
2:30:43

less so. There comes a time when the deluge is no longer helpful, and the comment section has begun to resemble a
2:30:49
public critique workshop. There is no possible way to meet every reader's requests, suggestions, and individual
2:30:55
taste. We're a team of professionals, and we have a specific creative vision to pursue. When we're ready for outside
2:31:01
feedback on the revised edition, we will recruit beta readers. Rest assured that this Patreon will be one of the places
2:31:07
we source such readers when the time comes. In the meantime, if you want to discuss your critical thoughts on The
2:31:13
Age of Scorpius or its author, there are many places to do that elsewhere. We will now be deleting any comments with
2:31:19
unsolicited advice or critique. If someone repeatedly violates this rule, they will be banned. I understand that
2:31:25
this may seem harsh to some, particularly in light of the problems in the first edition, but it is not a norm
2:31:30
in any creative industry to bombard an artist with an avalanche of unasked for critique. It has become so severe across
2:31:37
multiple platforms that it has interfered with Audre's motivation and morale. To make the book that we all
2:31:43
want to see, we need to close the windows for a while and focus updates on revisions, progress, world building, and
2:31:49
art will continue. But that I so read that terribly. But this is going to be a
2:31:55
space for discussion, questions, and appreciation, not critical feedback or advice on our pro process. If there
2:32:01
comes a time when we want that, we will explicitly ask for it. This is an important boundary during a storm of bad
2:32:07
press. If after reading this you decide to stick around for the journey ahead, you have my deepest gratitude from
2:32:14

Elrose, illustrator and project manager. Now, you can understand why this was an unpopular choice on their part because
2:32:23
people have a lot to say and it feels like silencing them. However, I I don't know how I feel about the this. I kind
2:32:28
of go back and forth between thinking that maybe it's not the best thing to do and thinking, well, this is just
2:32:35
supposed to be a space to share things. It's not the space for critique and if they are getting beta readers and stuff like that, maybe it is okay. Um, but you
2:32:43
know, got 15 likes. Comments have been disabled though. There was originally comments. I guess
2:32:50
they didn't want the people sharing feedback on the people sharing feedback post. Now, amidst all the other updates
2:32:57
that they're getting on this, they're pretty active here. We also got the revised chapter 1. So, obviously content
2:33:05
could still change, but you can see it here in all its beautiful glory. Um, I have read through
2:33:13
this and it is better than the original by far. Like I already said, I think I
2:33:19
still wouldn't start this book here, but I'm not the one writing the book. Um, and I also did go ahead and, as I said,
2:33:27
rewrote the first chapter in my style. So, if anybody wants to hear that,
2:33:33
just let me know. I I'll tell you. Um, it's not because I think my version is better. It genuinely was just a writing
2:33:40
exercise for me. Um, I've been working on my own book for so long and the second book in the series for so long
2:33:46
that I just thought it would be good to do something else. And this seemed like a fun little writing exercise to like just completely redo this in my style.
2:33:54
Um, so if you want to hear it, if you're interested, just tell me. But yeah, it is an improvement, right? Definitely an
2:34:01
improvement. I don't know why it has to be fully formatted from the get- go. I think that is silly, especially if like,
2:34:07

okay, so you have like all the page numbers here and stuff, right? What if you go back and you have to change this
2:34:13
and then the page count ends up being different and then you have to fix all the page counts for all the chapters?
2:34:18
Just doesn't really make sense to me. It doesn't feel like the most efficient way
2:34:23
to do this. But if this process works for them, this process works for them. Okay. I just feel like doing it chapter
2:34:30
by chapter rather than looking at the book as a whole isn't the right way forward in my
2:34:36
opinion. So right now the opinion around Audra and the Age of Scorpius is mostly
2:34:41
negative. There are people on her side, but a lot of people just have issues with the way she's going about all of
2:34:47
this saying that she should just be focusing on writing the book rather than doing all this business stuff. But in
2:34:52
the meantime, some um some very smart people on Tik Tok have picked up some
2:34:59
information that really play into my opinion and a lot of people's opinion
2:35:04
that Audrey just cares about being a businesswoman and doesn't care about being a writer and the craft of writing.
2:35:11
So this is kind of what I was talking about earlier when I mentioned investors.
2:35:17
I was not joking. So let let's let's have a look, shall we? Welcome back. Bet
2:35:22
you didn't expect to see me so soon. This is a posting from angelinves
2:35:28
investor.us or something. It's it's a like Kickstarteresque platform, but
2:35:35
specifically for people looking for angel investors to invest a large amount of money, I assume. And this is a post
2:35:45
from the world of Guardian on this website. So, let's break this down. The synopsis says, "A multimedia
2:35:52
literature-driven creative studio and publishing imprint." Interesting. With a team of 20 plus illustrators, musicians,
2:35:59

animators, and editors. Interesting that all of those came before editors and designers aiming to bring fantasy
2:36:06
stories to life by merging publishing and art by merging the publishing and art industries.
2:36:14
Okay, here is their selling points. They made $200,000 from April to July solely on
2:36:20
the pre-order of 7,800 sold products.
2:36:26
So there we're getting a more accurate number from what we can see here, unless it's a lie, but it would be ridiculous
2:36:32
to lie here. Um, that Audra sold 7,800
2:36:39
pre-order copies of The Age of Scorpius without anyone having ever read it. That
2:36:46
is huge. And then she made $200,000
2:36:52
on that. What? What is the profit margin there? But hold on. So we have $200,000
2:36:59
divided by $7,800 equals
2:37:05
25.
2:37:12
Huh? But I'm confused by this. So, is she making a profit of $25 per
2:37:20
book when she's saying that the pre-order book was sold at $23?
2:37:29
Then how is she making a profit of $25,000? Like, I know this is rough numbers,
2:37:35
right? It's not exactly $200,000, but is she's saying that that is the profit because even that not being the
2:37:43
profit, even that being the um gross income, right? all the money that was
2:37:48
earned from the pre-orders, not including like the money that goes to the printer and to this and that. That
2:37:54
doesn't make sense if the book was $23.99 through the Tik Tok shop in a way that
2:38:01
we all at this point assume is breaking to us, but okay. Thousands of people are
2:38:07
watching us and awaiting our next Well, reading it again, she's not claiming it's the profit. That's just the amount made. Is it just under
2:38:14

200,000 and she rounded it up? to 200,000 and it's slightly more than 7,800 people. Maybe
2:38:22
that is not why we're all watching you, bestie. No.
2:38:27
Experienced team of creatives fighting for independence in the arts. That much may be true. The other people on your
2:38:32
team, I don't believe that's why Audra's in this at this point. They are asking for $10,000 per investor
2:38:39
total minimum of $70,000. So, they're looking for seven investors to invest. Well, at least seven investors to invest
2:38:47
$10,000 a piece. This is crazy. This is crazy. I also
2:38:52
have to highlight specifically that when you click on this and go further into the pitch, you also see that they have
2:39:00
listed quote setting the path for a new literature-based genre of art consumption as one of their objectives.
2:39:07
And I have something to say about that specifically. So, in this is what I was talking about earlier with her saying that she's pioneering a
2:39:14
whole new thing. Um, this person here actually gives an example of a book
2:39:20
that's already doing that. I don't have on hand any examples of those kind of books. I just don't have any. Um, but
2:39:26
she gives one here. her big poetic sweeping dramatic update video from a
2:39:32
couple of weeks ago, Audrey mentioned this that she was setting the path for a new form of artistic literature. And I
2:39:39
just have to point something out. You are not. Artistic novels already
2:39:46
exist. And I have an example. This is from my library. It is Ho and the Hellmaker by Mina Goch. And it is an
2:39:54
artistic novel that is published. This came out actually a couple of months ago. And what Audrey is claiming that
2:40:03
she is groundbreaking and setting the path for already exists.
2:40:10
You can see it right there. It's already a thing, honey.

2:40:17
And this is not the only example. Like by far absolutely not the only example. just one that I had on hand. So, yeah,
2:40:24
stop trying to set yourself up to be some literary genius trailblazer. That's
2:40:31
not what you are. And it's admirable that this is what you want to do, if it
2:40:36
actually is, cuz at this point, I think it's just about the money. But don't step on the shoulders of other figures
2:40:43
in the literary community and claim that you are doing it first.
2:40:49
You're not. And at this point, I really have an issue. I It is very upsetting to me.
2:40:57
Like very frustrating to me, and I'm going to keep calling it out.
2:41:02
Sorry. Not sorry. For whatever reason, I cannot find the um original posting from
2:41:10
the US angel investor platform. For some reason, I can only and find this on the
2:41:17
Angel Investment Network on the Irish version of the site, which is Irish Investment Network.ie.
2:41:22
I don't know if that's just uh location based that I can only see the Irish stuff and I can't see the US stuff, but
2:41:30
here it is. Anyway, I assume they pull this from the overall network and not like that Audra has gone and like put
2:41:36
this on all the countries um investment things. So that note I believe oh I have
2:41:42
to sign up. Okay. Okay guys look I made I made a profile. Short summary. A
2:41:48
multimedia literature-driven creative studio and publishing imprint with a team of 20 plus illustrators, musicians,
2:41:54
animators, editors, and designers aiming to bring fantasy stories to life by merging the publishing and art industries. I ran through that super
2:42:00
fast because it was already read to you. There you can see the thing about made $200,000 with 7,800 pre-orders.
2:42:08
groundbreaking blah blah blah. So, this is all in euros, not US dollars. Now, for the breakdown here, um so it's
2:42:15

saying that the target is $60,000 euro. The minimum is €9,000 per investor. The
2:42:22
investment raised is zero. The previous round zero. And very importantly here,
2:42:28
it says that the investor role is monthly. So, they want a monthly
2:42:33
contribution of €9,000 or €10,000 minimum. But obviously at the moment
2:42:39
they're not making any money because who is going to look at this, Google World
2:42:44
of Guardian, find all the drama and be like, "This seems like this seems like a good idea." Nobody. Absolutely no
2:42:52
investor worth their salt is going to put their money in this. I wouldn't. My whole reasoning for this is that I just
2:42:58
wanted to prove that this is real. Um, obviously there's no confirmation from
2:43:04
Aud herself that she's done this, but it would be um kind of weird if somebody
2:43:11
did this and it wasn't real. But, uh, yeah. So, this is a real listing that is
2:43:17
online. I just cannot see the American version of it. So, it's not a hoax from this Tik Tocker. So, we can rule that
2:43:23
out right away. When I thought this couldn't get any more shocking, it got
2:43:28
so much more shocking. Audrey Winter is now seeking $70,000 in investment from angel investors. I have some thoughts
2:43:35
about this. Um, specifically because I consider myself a writer. Obviously, I'm not published. That doesn't matter. What
2:43:41
does matter is that I have worked in the startup space for over a decade. The startup I'm with, we have raised over
2:43:48
$12 million and my husband co-ounded a startup and he's raised just under a
2:43:54
million. My thoughts. First level thought is I think it's really interesting that she still isn't calling
2:43:59
herself really an indie author or a writer. Very much into the entrepreneurial thing. One, I wonder
2:44:04
where that comes from. Is she surrounded by business people? Maybe her parents are business people. I don't know. She's
2:44:10

refusing. Personally, I don't think her parents are business people because surely they would step in and tell her
2:44:15
how monumentally stupid all the decisions that she's making are if she
2:44:21
if they were business people. Maybe they're not good business people, but I feel like that that is the case.
2:44:28
And again, this is just me speculating. So, to say she's a writer first, she's a
2:44:33
entrepreneur with an LLC. Two, if you're writing a book and you want help with
2:44:39
paying for things to get the book out there, there's already a way to do that.
2:44:44
Essentially, there's already investors that will help authors do that. They're
2:44:49
publishers. So, there's already an avenue for this. And I But, uh, Audra wasn't able to traditionally publish
2:44:56
probably because, like she said in her own words, she doesn't want to write anything besides this world. Most
2:45:03
publishers aren't going to agree to that. Plus the fact that she's had such a bad release. Her writing is not good.
2:45:09
It's going to be very hard for a publisher to take that on. I'm just I'm just wondering why she's
2:45:15
not taking that avenue and instead is seeking $70,000 from 10 angel investors.
2:45:21
It's just interesting. Interesting. That's all. I just think it's interesting. The second is that she really doesn't like feedback. We all
2:45:27
know it. We've all seen it and how she reacts to criticism. But also her latest post on her Patreon is one that says,
2:45:35
"We will not be accepting feedback anymore in the Patreon, and this is to protect Audra's mental well-being."
2:45:41
They're saying that if you leave feedback, it will be deleted, and if you keep leaving feedback, they're going to ban you. If you think it's hard to deal
2:45:46
with customer feedback, just wait until you have to deal with investor feedback. The other is that she told her people
2:45:53

she will be regularly posting updates. the last update has been delayed because she's not feeling well. So, there's just
2:45:59
not an update. When you have to update investors, uh, and I'm not feeling well, there's no update. That's going to be
2:46:06
harder to get away with. My last thought is, could this work? Could she actually get investors behind her? Possibly. I
2:46:13
could see a world where some investors see that she does indeed. She may think
2:46:19
she sees this path. I don't see it happening. And currently she has no investors which is probably good because
2:46:24
yeah she would have to take feedback from them. She would have to answer to them. They would have a stake in the business. That's what an investor is.
2:46:30
Like you're not just running everything yourself and making all the decisions at that point. The investors have a big
2:46:38
role in that. Now have a lot of eyeballs on her. She has a lot of attention and that is an opportunity. I could totally
2:46:44
see hiring, if you can, with $70,000, an excellent ghost writer who writes the
2:46:50
entire thing. You know, I'm sure she'll have some some input and some say, but essentially other people will be writing
2:46:56
the book and they'll write it very well. It'll be a very good story, and it has to be. if it looks like she's coming
2:47:02
back with a fantastic story that is like excellent on pacing, excellent on character arcs, uh has an amazing plot,
2:47:10
um just an all-around objectively amazing story, I could see that working. I could see it eventually finding not
2:47:17
only a new audience, but people like me who are making videos about it will make
2:47:23
videos about it. It'll get talked about in the book talk space. The comeback will get talked about and I'm sure money
2:47:28
could be made that way. Is that likely to happen? I don't know. I'm not an investor as of right now. And I've put a
2:47:34

lot of thought into this. These are just like my highlevel reactionary thoughts. That's really the only way right now
2:47:40
that I could see this working. You you would have to come back with not even a
2:47:45
good product, an amazing product that everybody talks about. Again, really at least 80% of people talking about it all
2:47:52
agree, yeah, this is actually an excellent book. Five stars. Love this book. Would recommend. Would read again.
2:47:58
Would this be a business opportunity that you would uh partake in? Again, my concern is how this affects indie
2:48:05
authors. It's not a It's not a good look. From here to here, these are all
2:48:11
indie books that I bought on Tik Tok. I'm just going to say again, this is the only indie book that I bought that I was
2:48:18
shocked by that I thought was terribly written. Uh, every other book that I've gotten indie has been a good read.
2:48:23
That's just what concerns me about this situation. If you're still watching this, uh, you're probably an indie author yourself and are interested in
2:48:29
the situation because I do have a pretty extensive background in like the startup
2:48:35
space. I've seen how startupy things can benefit indie authors when it comes to
2:48:41
like product and marketing, customer acquisition, customer lifetime value, that kind of thing. I thought it would
2:48:46
be nice if I could make some videos that could be helpful for you guys. If if you're actually interested in that, let me know. I I'd be happy to give my
2:48:53
thoughts and stuff and hopefully be help. You know, I was very empathetic with Audrey Winters at the very
2:48:59
beginning whenever the whole thing blew up with the book and how badly it was received by everybody that read it or
2:49:06
had ordered it. But now I'm to the point where I'm just tired of seeing all these
2:49:12
excuses that she's given left and right, blaming all the external circumstances
2:49:19

without even taking any direct accountability for the fact that she needs to work on her writing.
2:49:25
Collectively, all the people that have read it have all agreed that it was just
2:49:30
subjectively badly written, unfortunately, and she just didn't want to hear it. That seems to be the truth
2:49:37
of it. She just did not want to hear it based off how defensive she got from the very beginning until she got enough push
2:49:43
back that she said fine fine fine. And and now I feel like all these posts that she's been doing is like just to get her
2:49:49
viewers to shut up about it to show like hey I am I am doing
2:49:55
something about it. But now, now we have this new editor, Caitlyn,
2:50:01
and she's the one that's been answering the Q&As's on the recent posts on Audre's page. And there was the recent
2:50:08
post that really really rubbed me the wrong way was when she was asked what went wrong with the first um round of
2:50:16
edits with the previous editors. and she threw the editors under the bus saying
2:50:24
that they did not do enough editing, like it needed to have more editing and
2:50:29
that they still gave the go-ahad to to Audra. And to me that doesn't sound
2:50:36
right because how did two editors that she had at the time
2:50:41
not thoroughly go through it and somehow this new editor is going to do that differently when you literally
2:50:48
when she literally had one of the editors from the Hunger Games and everybody like a massive amount of
2:50:54
people loved the Hunger Games cuz it was written well enough for YA
2:51:01
and The other thing that Caitlyn, the editor, did on there was also
2:51:07
uh there were some other authors under the bus. She was comparing Audra as an
2:51:13
author to Rebecca Yaros and uh Lauren Roberts and how she knows how Audra had
2:51:20

put all this work into her world building, which is something that Yaros and Roberts don't do.
2:51:26
I so forgot that that happened yet. Rebecca Yaros is the author of Fourth Wing, if you didn't know. Now, that's a
2:51:32
book I really enjoy, right? I know it's not for everybody. I know it's not like one of the best written things ever, but
2:51:37
for me, a book doesn't necessarily have to be like an amazing well-written
2:51:43
piece. Sometimes I just want to have fun, and that's the kind of book that I have fun with, right? I like that book. Um, I still haven't finished the second
2:51:49
one cuz I found that one a little bit sluggish. But beyond the point, that is undeniably a really successful book
2:51:57
series. Rebecca Yaros, whether you like her writing or not, whether you like Fourth Wing or not, she has written
2:52:02
something that has mass market appeal. So to compare
2:52:08
Rebecca and Audra and say, well, Audra spent more time in the world building, like she really cares about that and
2:52:14
Rebecca didn't. Well, clearly Rebecca did something right and Audra did not.
2:52:20
Otherwise, Audra would have a more successful launch and Rebecca Yaros
2:52:26
wouldn't. That's just the fact of the matter. Now, there is obviously marketing and all of that, but like
2:52:32
nobody is gonna keep pushing the book out if it's bad. And we saw that with
2:52:37
Audra herself because her book was marketed well. It had a huge, huge
2:52:43
pre-release uh sort of campaign going on. 7,800 pre-orders, unheard of in the
2:52:49
indie space. That is a lot. She could have been on all the bestseller lists. She could have maybe gotten picked up by
2:52:54
a traditional publisher. She could have sold way more books, launched a successful franchise, except the book
2:53:01
wasn't good. You don't lose all that momentum when the book is good. You lose it cuz the
2:53:08

book is not good. And that is what happened. And also even said how Audra constantly
2:53:14
reads in her fantasy genre, but she can tell that Yaraos doesn't. How can you
2:53:20
tell? As somebody that reads,
2:53:27
when you read the book already, the way it's structured, that tells you, okay, this person at least has a knowledge of
2:53:33
how a fantasy novel is done, right? Okay, let's compare Aud's
2:53:42
books. Now, I haven't read Fourth Wing, but obviously it was received well by
2:53:47
people. I'm sure those that have read it have said they love it because they were able to connect to the story. Even if
2:53:54
the world building was lacking for a fantasy setting, the emotional connection was there for the pe for the
2:54:01
readers to cling on to the characters to care about the story. Whether or not it
2:54:06
was completely structured perfectly, which authors should never shoot for perfection, it just needs to shoot for
2:54:13
you being able to get your vision across. Some readers will love it, some readers
2:54:19
won't. It just happens. But Audress was just not subjectively done well. And
2:54:25
that's the truth of it. And to me, her book read as somebody
2:54:30
that does not read fantasy books because somebody that reads fantasy books knows not to do a bunch of info
2:54:38
dumping and at least knows to add some kind of stakes, high stakes at the
2:54:43
beginning. knows to add imagery, which is something that was
2:54:48
just so drastically lacking in the book, imagery. And that is the one number
2:54:54
thing, the one the number one thing that you notice in fantasy novels right off the bat is the imagery of everything.
2:55:03
So again, for her to be blaming everything outside of this, outside of herself, is is just no. This I I don't I
2:55:12

don't I'm not for that. I'm sorry. I cannot be empathetic to something like that because I'm the type of person that
2:55:17
if I messed up, I will take accountability for it. Like, okay, I need to do something better. I need to
2:55:23
work on myself. I need to do it. I acknowledge it.
2:55:28
And then most of the people that were given one-star reviews, they were detailed in those reviews. My final
2:55:36
thoughts on this is just that I don't truly believe that Audrey is cut out for
2:55:41
this industry in general because of just how she has received all the feedback.
2:55:47
It's like she's also been refusing to
2:55:52
work on her skill because somehow everybody else is a problem but her. And then the one of the
2:56:00
videos that she posted talking um her mentioning her mental health and how she
2:56:05
was at a point where she wanted to basically herself because of this whole entire thing is basically what she said
2:56:11
in that post. And to me that's like okay so now are you trying to place the blame on your readers and your viewers for
2:56:18
your mental health when that should be something that you should be responsible for? And people have been telling her to
2:56:24
get off the internet if this is causing her mental health to decline. And there she is still posting.
2:56:31
And so like, okay, now now you're posting and you should be expecting the comments at this point.
2:56:38
Stop posting if your mental health is that bad.
2:56:43
But I don't know. And then I don't know if y'all read the new revision. I've only read like the first page and it
2:56:51
read better for sure. Just it did read better. At least some of the imagery is there, but
2:56:58
it had it had a lot of purple pros in it. That was not necessary. And purple pros can be beautiful if it's done

2:57:04
right, but it had too too much even in that first page. So, we'll see how this
2:57:11
goes. I would say um from what I took from
2:57:16
reading the first chapter that she put up on Patreon, the revised version, it was definitely like a billion times
2:57:23
better. I still don't think it's maybe up to par, and that's just my opinion because it still suffers from sort of
2:57:30
info dumping. It's not as egregious as it was in the first edition, but there's still a lot of info dumping. And
2:57:36
something I noticed um when I was trying to rewrite my version, cuz I wrote my
2:57:42
version without like looking at her one. So, I read the whole thing and I was like, "Okay, let's write my one just
2:57:48
from memory so it doesn't like so it don't follow the exact same structure." in her version, you don't like I knew
2:57:54
who the character was because of the fact that this book has already been out and I've read the description and all of
2:58:01
that. If you went into this blind, you don't really know who the character is. Her name isn't said once. You you don't
2:58:08
have a strong idea of who she is, what she does, where she lives, who her family is. Like, you get a little hint of it, but it's it's not enough for a
2:58:15
first chapter where the first parts are supposed to at least introduce you to the main character somewhat.
2:58:22
like I'd at least like to know her name. That that could just be an opinion on my part, but it it just felt very strange.
2:58:29
And again, I'm repeating myself, but I don't think the book should have started there. I think it could have been much stronger if it started somewhere else.
2:58:35
Overall, this whole thing I feel is a culmination of several issues. And what
2:58:43
I'm about to say may come off harsh, but I don't mean it to be. And like at this point, this video obviously isn't for
2:58:49

Audra. She's not going to watch this. And if for some reason she is, Audrey, you should not be watching stuff about yourself. That is bad for your brain.
2:58:55
Audrey seems to me like somebody who is horrifically suffering from gifted child
2:59:04
syndrome. Uh it's obviously not a real disease, but uh that is something that I
2:59:10
had a bit of cuz I was a really smart kid, right? Like I I was I'm not saying
2:59:15
this to be like up my own ass. I was a really smart kid. Um, so I'm coming at this from a place of understanding and
2:59:22
I've been there. A lot of gifted children, if you say that, people who are like they're really good at stuff,
2:59:28
they're really intelligent, they do so well at school, and they're like fantastic and they're advanced at stuff for their age. I mean, like I told you
2:59:34
guys earlier, I started speaking and reading and writing pretty early on. I read Janeire when I was nine. I was
2:59:42
writing stories from the time I was young. I did fantastically in school without trying. The problem is for a lot of us, uh, you
2:59:49
stagnate at a certain point. You don't just keep going and you're so used to being told like how smart you are, how
2:59:56
great you are at this and that and the other that in your brain you think that that's something that is just natural.
3:00:03
It should just come to you. Um, and you don't need to try. And so for a long
3:00:08
time, I didn't try. Um, I think it was when I got to my final three years of secondary school. So here it's six
3:00:14
years. I skipped fourth year. Um so it was actually maybe in final two. I don't
3:00:19
know. The stuff got harder but to a degree where like you needed to be studying the material uh to understand
3:00:26
what was going on and I just didn't. So like I passed everything just on sheer
3:00:34
I don't know I guess being smart but like I didn't put in the work to do better than just passing things. And
3:00:40

then later on in life, I just stagnated as well. Like I mentioned my first book that I wrote that I never had any
3:00:46
intention of doing anything with. But it was awful because I didn't bother to learn how to write. I stuck with that
3:00:53
for a few years thinking, well, like I'm just not good at stuff. Like I used to be smart. Just not good at stuff
3:00:58
anymore. And then I started trying again. Now I'm a few years older than Audra. So, I've
3:01:06
had a little bit more time to learn, hey, I'm not going to just be automatically good at things. Um, I
3:01:12
think I have maybe a bit more self-loathing than Audra does. So, that I went straight from, oh, I'm great to,
3:01:17
oh, I'm awful. I think she still thinks she's fantastic at things cuz she's grown up being really smart and gifted
3:01:23
and a prodigy, which she has called herself that, thinking she's a master at writing because she was good at a young
3:01:29
age, but she's stagnated. She hasn't progressed beyond that. You need to recognize that you're not
3:01:36
always going to be the greatest. You need to put in the work. So, I myself I
3:01:42
I don't even know what age I would have been when I finally like stopped being annoying. Maybe 25.
3:01:50
So, 24, 25, 26 even. I was like, "Okay, the this I I actually do need to work on
3:01:57
the stuff that I want to do." So, I worked on the stuff that I wanted to do. I learned, I practiced.
3:02:03
I did things that were uncomfortable. I got feedback from people. I I took criticism. I focused on my flaws and
3:02:10
tried to fix them. Um I spent so much time relearning things about writing
3:02:15
that I had never bothered to learn because I had known a lot from before. But as I mentioned, I was mostly versed
3:02:20
on short stories. I didn't know the structure of writing a book. I I read I
3:02:26

read books, but I didn't know the structure of writing one. And it's a whole different ballgame. You have to learn this stuff. So, I learned and I
3:02:32
practiced. I wrote more books and then finally started writing my book. Now, I
3:02:38
mean, I was writing books the whole time, but I was writing them just blind like that first one. I wrote a whole another um sci-fi book, which I actually
3:02:45
still like the concept of. I might get back to that one day. It was a sci-fi dystopian. Um but it was written
3:02:50
terribly cuz I wasn't learning. So, there were so many books in the interim that I wrote that were terrible. And then eventually, I started writing books
3:02:57
with the intention of, okay, I'm going to do this the right way. I'm going to learn like structure and like go back
3:03:02
and edit and work on the plot and the character developments and the arcs and stuff and it it was better. So Audrey
3:03:10
still has time to do that and this is not a case of me saying, "Oh, she's young. She'll learn." She is still responsible for the fact that she's not
3:03:16
taking any accountability and she's not accepting that she didn't do a good job.
3:03:22
And I truly believe that's just because she was a gifted child. She was a prodigy. She was smart. and she has yet
3:03:29
to learn that it's not automatically just all going to fall in her lap. She's not always going to just be great at
3:03:35
things. She has to try and sometimes she is bad at things. Right now she can be
3:03:42
as passionate as she wants about her world and it's amazing that she's be been able to put this world together and I'm happy for her that she has something
3:03:48
that brings her joy and I would love for her to be able to share that with the world one day. But right now she's a bad
3:03:55
writer. And I don't I don't say that to be mean. Just factually she is.
3:04:02
But you're not automatically a bad writer. And this is something the gifted child in your brain in any one's brain
3:04:08

who was a former gifted child and is now not needs to learn is that you're not just automatically good at something or
3:04:14
bad at something. You can work at that. You may be a bad writer now, but you can
3:04:20
work on your skills, learn the craft, and become a good writer.
3:04:26
My only concern with that is that I don't know that that's what she wants to do cuz she's really focused on being
3:04:32
this entrepreneur, this businesswoman, the successful creator of an LLC. I
3:04:38
truly think that she feels the world of Guardian is going to be the sort of thing that first has a book launch, has
3:04:45
other kind of launches, maybe a video game, maybe a movie, a cartoon or a TV
3:04:51
series, something like that. And I think she thinks she's going to do that all herself and it's going to be successful and amazing and everyone's going to love
3:04:56
it because she believes so much in this world she's created.
3:05:02
But that is not in the cards right now because you started this with a book when you can't write and that is just
3:05:09
the truth of it. She had a lot of goodwill even after the book came out and it did terribly. People just wanted
3:05:15
to see her succeed. People were giving her criticism. People were explaining why they didn't like the book.
3:05:21
They were saying they just wanted her to fix it. Problem is instead of just fixing it, she got defensive. She got
3:05:29
annoyed. She got upset. She fought with people. Then she decided, okay, I'll
3:05:34
revise it. But she put all this focus in the art, in creating a product rather
3:05:40
than creating a book. And slowly but surely, people lost that
3:05:45
goodwill. And now it's just not there anymore. This could have been a fantastic success story if she had
3:05:50
paused, let the emotional reaction to the negative feedback, you know, do its
3:05:55

thing. Sometimes you just got to feel the feelings and let them pass. felt that and then gone, "Okay, the book's
3:06:02
not good. Let me write a better book. Let me write a better book. It could
3:06:08
still be in the world of Guardian, but let me write a better book." Learned her craft, not put a deadline on it, taken
3:06:14
as much time as she needed, come back with a book. That would have been a success story. That would have gone
3:06:20
viral. People would have bought that. But what she did instead was put another timeline, put more art, make it more
3:06:26
expensive, keep calling herself an entrepreneur, talking about the business aspect of things, hiring a whole
3:06:31
creative studio, trying to get angel investors, and just doing something that people just can't get behind. No matter
3:06:37
how many sad emotional tracks you put behind the story of it, people can't get
3:06:43
behind that. People don't feel for that. People don't care. People don't want another business woman. They just wanted
3:06:48
to read a good book. That's the sad reality of it. And I I
3:06:53
don't want to come across as harsh because I'm in this space. I I've mentioned it a billion times already.
3:06:59
I'm going to continue mentioning it because it is my baby. My debut novel comes out this year. I'm an indie
3:07:04
author. It's a hard space to be in and I don't want to feel like I'm putting other
3:07:10
authors down, but she herself, she's an entrepreneur, you know, and
3:07:16
she's not taking the feedback. And I I want to be able to uplift authors. and I still would love to see her succeed. I
3:07:21
just don't see it happening with the mindset that she has right now, unfortunately. I also think, like I
3:07:27
mentioned before, for indie authors, this has been very scary and it has unfortunately negatively affected

3:07:34
the indie writer space. Um, because this situation has gotten a lot of attention
3:07:39
and now people are more hesitant to take a chance on an indie book whereas a lot of people were already hesitant. So this
3:07:46
has done a lot of damage and I don't want to put that on Audra like writing a bad book is not going to automatically
3:07:52
damage the indie space but unfortunately this particular situation has. Um so to
3:07:59
that I just want to say please support indie authors. Please give an indie author a chance. Buy their book. Read it
3:08:06
on Kindle Unlimited. Get the Kindle version. Support them. Just give it a chance. This is one of my favorite indie
3:08:12
authors. Her name is Kate Schumacher. I first read her a couple of years ago when I read her book, The Call of the
3:08:18
Sea, which is part of a series. Um, it's a wonderful book. It was actually so
3:08:24
good that I messaged her and I felt really guilty about messaging her cuz I hate bothering people. But I just wanted
3:08:29
to tell her in case she saw it and didn't mind messaging her, hey, this is one of the best books I've read in a
3:08:35
long time. Um, I've had like a lot of bad books that I've read recently, unfortunately. And those weren't indie
3:08:40
books, by the way, in case you're wondering. those were um you know big publishing names. Uh but I'd read a lot
3:08:47
of bad books and I was like this one was fantastic and I listed all the reasons I loved it. I didn't even know that it was
3:08:53
an Arthurian legend retelling cuz I didn't know anything about the Arththeran Legends and I thought it was
3:08:58
great. I read the next book and now she has another book coming out that I am so excited for. Like I'm genuinely so
3:09:04
excited for uh it's called The City of Smoke and Demons. It's a gaslight fantasy. Gaslight fantasy. Gas lamp

3:09:11
fantasy. Um, I am so excited for this book. Like, I am just waiting to get my
3:09:17
grubby myths on it. Comes out in November, same as mine. Um, I don't know the exact date, though. I don't know if she's posted it, but yeah, I genuinely
3:09:24
love this author. So, here's just one example of a really fantastic indie author you can check out. She also, to
3:09:32
my knowledge, is writing um a sci-fi book under a different name. I haven't
3:09:39
looked into that yet, but if you just check out her socials, she's probably posted about it. You can find the
3:09:44
information there if that's more your thing. Check her out. That's one example of an indie author. And I'm not using this
3:09:51
situation to just talk about my book. I wouldn't have sat here for like 50 hours. uh if it was just about that. But
3:09:58
I do want to take this opportunity to talk about my own book because this is a really scary um it's a really scary path
3:10:05
to take and I I have put my heart and soul into this book and it's my very
3:10:12
first release and I want I want it to do well. I want people to read it. So you could also, you know, take a look at my
3:10:19
book. Um my author website is linked in the description of all my videos. So it's in this description. It's evaal
3:10:26
Alexandra.com. Alexander is spelled with a KS and not an X because that is how you spell my name. Um, my book is part
3:10:34
of what was formerly called the Marrow series, but I'm changing the series name for reasons. It's on the Kickstarter um
3:10:40
to the Drowned Gods series. And the first book is called Bound by Blood and
3:10:45
Sea. Um, it's out November 16th. It is a dark fantasy novel which is loosely
3:10:51
inspired by Irish mythology. mythology. mythology. Jesus lots.
3:10:57
I am Irish if you didn't know. So that's why the Irish mythology. Um it's got
3:11:02

LGBT characters, Marley Gay characters. The basic premise of it is that it's
3:11:08
based on this island called Inish Alta, which is off the coast of Ireland. Uh
3:11:14
and on that island live the Mero, who are like shape-shifting mermaids. So they mostly live on land, but they can
3:11:19
go in the water. And on one side is the AI who are sort of like the faye. Um
3:11:24
there has been a lot of tension between their peoples in the last couple of centuries. And Turan Branlock is the
3:11:31
main character. She is part of a secret sect um that only a few marrow are in.
3:11:39
Her mother is both the high priestess of that secret sect called the order of the drowned and also the the queen of the
3:11:46
marrow on Inish Ala. So turn Branlock is the heir to that and she ends up in an arranged marriage to an Asia lord.
3:11:53
However, gay things ensue. Anyway,
3:11:59
that that is just a short short little description of parts of my book. Um I
3:12:06
would love if you could check it out. I mentioned I have 700 pre-orders already, which is amazing. I'm so glad. Um I
3:12:13
would love 7,800. That would be great. But obviously um with some of the things
3:12:19
that have happened here um that that could also go horribly wrong. So I thought if you guys would just give me a
3:12:25
minute of your time cuz I've been here so long you might as well listen to me for another extra minute or two, right?
3:12:32
I want to read you just a really short excerpt from my book so you can just get an idea of it maybe. Um, I picked a
3:12:39
couple of random excerpts and it was kind of hard to figure out which one to read because I didn't want to give any
3:12:47
spoilers. So, that was hard to um to pick something that didn't have spoilers. I
3:12:55
will be releasing chapter one of the book to my um patrons and to my
3:13:03

newsletter subscribers, but I won't be releasing chapter 1 until the ebook is
3:13:09
ready for pre-order, which should be sometime this month and when I send out the arcs, which is the advanced review
3:13:14
copies. So, at some point, chapter 1 will be up to read. So, I didn't want to pick an excerpt from chapter 1, so I
3:13:20
just picked a really short excerpt. I think this was from chapter 14.
3:13:27
Uh, so it's it's a little bit random. So,
3:13:32
okay. This is nerve-wracking actually. I don't usually read my my work for people
3:13:38
and I'm getting nervous, guys. I'm getting nervous. I'm scared especially after seeing what happened to Audra. But
3:13:44
like this is um very necessary to let people know what they're getting into,
3:13:49
especially, you know, given this situation. So again, this is like the middle of
3:13:56
something. This is random excerpt. It's not the whole chapter. It's just a little bit of it. Okay. Okay. Be nice to
3:14:01
me. The morning currents ran cold through the kelp forests and turn scales caught
3:14:07
what little sunlight penetrated this steep, turning her flanks into shifting patterns of storm dark blue and silver.
3:14:13
Her mother swam ahead, tail cutting through the water like she owned it. Perhaps she did. The kelp parted before
3:14:19
them, revealing glimpses of the deeper channels where crabs scuttled across the barnacle crusted rocks, and schools of
3:14:25
fish turned as one entity, flashing like coins. Orla's voice came through the waters vibration more than sound. Tell
3:14:32
me of the a she guard. The question arrived wrapped in casual interest, but Turin knew better. Nothing her mother
3:14:38
asked was ever casual. She adjusted her position, swimming slightly to the side to avoid the direct line of Orla's wake,
3:14:45
buying herself a moment to think. Attain serves her function adequately. Such

3:14:50
lukewarm praise. I expected more detail from someone who spent hours alone with her. He bloomed across her and spine, a
3:14:56
faint rose flush spreading across her neck. For one reckless moment, the truth pressed against her teeth like a perm
3:15:02
falling around grit. She strung in ways that have nothing to do with dagger she carries. When she held my wrist in that
3:15:08
tower, when we fell together against the stone, I could feel her heartbeat through both our ribs. Her weakness
3:15:14
might be that she sees too much, cares too much, stands too close when she thinks I'm not watching. But those words
3:15:19
would be blood in the water, and her mother had too many teeth. What can you tell me of attains weaknesses? Or was
3:15:26
clearly losing her patience? Turn forced observations that were true, but incomplete. Facts scrubbed clean of
3:15:32
their context. She favors her left side slightly when she's been standing for extended periods. An old injury perhaps,
3:15:38
though she hides it well. The memory came unbidden. Attain shifting her weight in the tower. The subtle tell
3:15:44
visible only because Turan had been watching so closely, cataloging detail she had no business noticing. In close
3:15:50
quarters, she relies on strength over speed, she said. In close quarters, she smells of leather and rain and something
3:15:56
green. But turn swallow that detail. Let it sink unspoken. Continue, Ora
3:16:02
commanded, banking around a massive boulder covered in anemone. An anemone
3:16:10
an okay anemmones that swayed like pink and
3:16:16
orange flowers in the current. She maintains her equipment obsessively, checks the windows in patterns, north,
3:16:22
east, south, west, then begins again. Predictable turn followed her mother's path, scales brushing against the soft

3:16:28
polyps of a sea fan. When she's uncertain, her hand drifts to her weapon hilt. A tell that could be exploited.
3:16:35
Turin thought to herself, "When she's uncertain, a muscle jumps in her jaw and her arms tense. She's protective beyond
3:16:41
requirements of her position. It makes her predictable. Protective of you specifically." Orless
3:16:47
tone carried an edge now of her duty. She takes her orders from Lady Morvin seriously. Turn felt the current change
3:16:54
as they approached the deeper channels. Colder water rising from below. Perhaps too seriously, it could be used against
3:17:01
her. They swam in silence for a time, descending through the thermoclines that made Turin scales prickle with the
3:17:06
temperature changes. The kelp forest gave way to bare rock faces carved by centuries of current. The cave mouth
3:17:12
loomed before them, a diagonal slash in the cliff face that looked like a wound from this angle. No light penetrated its
3:17:19
steps, but Turn's eyes had already adjusted. They entered together, the current dying away to nothing in the
3:17:24
cave stillness. Here, sound worked differently. Each movement creating echoes them at the space in ways her
3:17:30
eyes couldn't. The cave opened into a vast chamber, its ceiling lost in darkness above. Its floor a series of
3:17:37
stepped ledges that descended towards the ritual pool at its heart. And there, arriving on the jagged stones like
3:17:44
pieces of living coral, stood the order elders. Six of them had aligned themselves in a circle, and Orla moved
3:17:50
to join them. When she reached her spot in the center, the elders tales stilled, letting the water settle until it held
3:17:56
the perfect clarity of ancient ice. Her mother gestured for her to join, and she did, though she'd never seen another
3:18:02

order member be invited into the circle of elders before. We have some important matters to discuss. The vibrations of
3:18:09
Orla's voice rippled outward. The third trial, chosen by Alina Morvin, fast
3:18:14
approaches. The morning after the autumn equinox ceremony, Turan and Kalin are to undergo the truth gate. Okay, there you
3:18:22
go. That was that was very scary. That was very scary to do, but um I
3:18:28
obviously would like for you guys to know what you're getting into if you want to pre-order the book. Um so you
3:18:34
can read a bit more about the book on my website. Um if you want to wait and see the first chapter when that is released,
3:18:42
you can sign up to my newsletter which is on my website as well. or you can go ahead and you can um pre-order the book
3:18:48
if you want. Again, I would love 7,800 pre-orders. Um I feel like this video is
3:18:54
going to flop uh cuz it's not my usual kind of content, but if you somehow are
3:19:00
here uh because you you don't know me um and you're interested in this, then
3:19:05
please subscribe. And if you are somebody who so happens to be here and you're like a bookstagrammer or a book
3:19:13
talker or booktuber and you would like an ARC copy of this book, please just reach out to me. You can contact me on
3:19:20
Instagram or on the uh email address listed on my website. So either of those
3:19:25
probably Instagram is the best way to go though. But if you'd like an ARC, let me know. Um I'd be happy to send one to
3:19:31
you. So, with that being said, thank you for staying and letting me read a little
3:19:36
bit of my upcoming book. Um, it was hard to do. And, um, yeah, let me know what
3:19:42
you think about this whole situation. It's just a mess. If you can't tell from the fact that this is such a long video,
3:19:47
I have been really keeping up with this. Now, I did uh skim over some of the
3:19:52

initial parts of the story just because I wanted to focus on what's going on
3:19:58
now. Um, one person who I saw a video about this who focused on like the whole
3:20:04
timeline of the beginning of things was Meredith Novako or Novako. I'm not sure
3:20:09
how you pronounce her name. Uh, but she did a really good job timelining the uh the first parts of this. And then if you
3:20:17
want to see a review of most of the full book, um, you can check out Reads with
3:20:22
Rachel. I'll put both of those videos in the description so you can check them out. But for now, yeah, let me know what
3:20:27
you think. Share this with somebody. Like, comment, share, follow me on social media. I'm Vangelina everywhere.
3:20:33
And um don't forget to check out Midasmer Merge. The first 100 people to click the link in my description or to
3:20:40
scan the QR code on screen and download Midas Merge for free will get an exclusive character in game, a Mox
3:20:48
personalized with my name. Thank you so much to them for sponsoring today's video. Thank you for watching today's
3:20:53
video. Um, and I just want to say I I know I was gone off the channel for a
3:20:59
really long time. I'm still a little bit sick, but I'm better. Um, and I hope this long video makes up for that cuz
3:21:05
this is I think the longest video that's ever gone on my channel. So again, thank you so much for watching and I will see
3:21:11
you in the next one. Bye. [Music]

COMPILED BY ANATOLE TERNAUX - HTTP://DEADFRENCHMEN.RIP